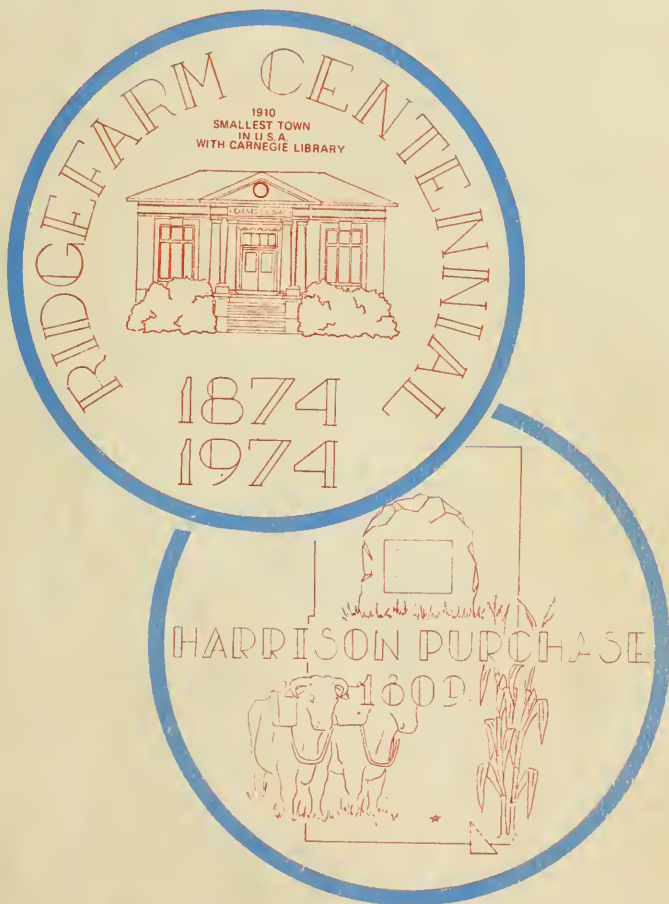


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# 100 Years on the Ridge



ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

*the  
newest*

# 100 Years on the Ridge



BLUEGRASS PRINTING  
Potomac, Illinois 61865



STANDING, LEFT to RIGHT: Ted Henderson, Rachel Davenport, Gene Barkley, Joe Goodner, Helen Coleman, Fred Coleman, Dane Binkley, Mark Blakeney, Eula Binkley, Wallace Deck, Rev. Carl Lee, Jim Henderson, and Virgil Bange

SEATED, LEFT to RIGHT: Lois Winland, Susie Henderson, Harriett Romoser, Marjorie Lewis, Stella Darnall, Helen Busby, Louise Mills, Don Hackler, Terry Banta, Beth Carsman and Alice Goodner

### CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Fred Coleman, Dane Binkley, *Co-Chairmen*

Stella Darnall, *Secretary*

Helen Coleman, *Executive Secretary*

Helen Busby, *Treasurer*

Terry Banta, Rev. David Peterson, Mark Blakeney, *Directors*

Finance — Rachel Davenport, Beth Carsman

Parade — Wallace Deck, Don Hackler

First Aid — Edith Williams

Entertainment — John Jackson, Jim Henderson

Contests — Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Bange, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Romoser

Safety and Sanitation — Jim Woodyard, Carl Young

Church — Rev. David Peterson, Rev. Gene Barkley

Program — LaVon Erdman, Marjorie Lewis

Displays and Antiques – Dane and Eula Binkley, Susie Henderson, Sonna Hester  
 Decoration – Rose Marie Woodyard, Juanita Mainord  
 Accommodations – Alice Goodner, Doris Brand  
 Publicity – Mildred Dillman, Lina Brewer  
 Teen-age Dance – Youth Center, Rev. Eugene Barkley, Brad Brown  
 History – Louise Mills, Ted Henderson  
 Advertising – Steve Kelley, Mike Weiss, Carl Busby  
 Concessions and Grounds – Joe Goodner, Jim Honnold

Centennial Colors – red, white, blue  
 Emblems – Carnegie Library, Harrison Purchase Monument  
 Photographer – Verlin Biggs, Georgetown, Ill.  
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# SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Vermilion County Histories by:	Beckwith, 1879 Lottie Jones, I and H Williams Pearson Chapman Bros. Stapp & Bowman
The Heritage	Vermilion County Museum
Atlas by:	W. R. Brink, 1875 John D. -- Geo. A. Ogle & Co. 1895-1915 Standard, 1915
Friends in Illiana, 1826.	Illinois Genealogical & Historical Society
Centennials of:	Hull – 1971 Bismarck – 1972 Chrisman – 1972 Veedersburg, Ind. – 1972
Ridge Farm Republican 1903-1950	
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# Introduction

Our town has pride in its heritage. This is proven by the multitude of helpers planning and executing this centennial. It has been rewarding to work together to recall our history.

If any name or event has been overlooked, we ask your pardon for our unintentional mistakes.

The committee appreciates every worker and every bit of help given to make this centennial historically successful.

Residents from here have become ambassadors, military leaders, editors, bankers, lawyers, teachers, administrators, authors, nurses, doctors, ministers, missionaries, business leaders, farmers, civic leaders and home makers. This is home to them.

In 1939, at the 65th anniversary of our town held at the High School, Mayor Frank Carsman, Charles Brown and Toastmaster Don Brewer asked several business men to speak on Ridge Farm history. John Foster gave happenings during his 55 years in civic and business activities here. Principal H. E. Jones observed that he liked this typical American town, made of a good stock, friendly, congenial, democratic, well-informed people who were never too busy to stop and talk. He said, "It is a choice location, one hour's drive to the University of Illinois, Eastern Illinois University, Indiana State University, two hours' drive to Springfield or Indianapolis, or three hours to Chicago.

Although business houses have dwindled in number, this is a pleasant village, 1175 population. It has been an important part of this area since it began and today we are still making history.

May you find old friends and neighbors, enjoy the programs, exhibits, parade and pageant planned to tell the story of our town 1874 - 1974.

Louise Mills  
Ted Henderson  
*Co-chairmen History Committee*



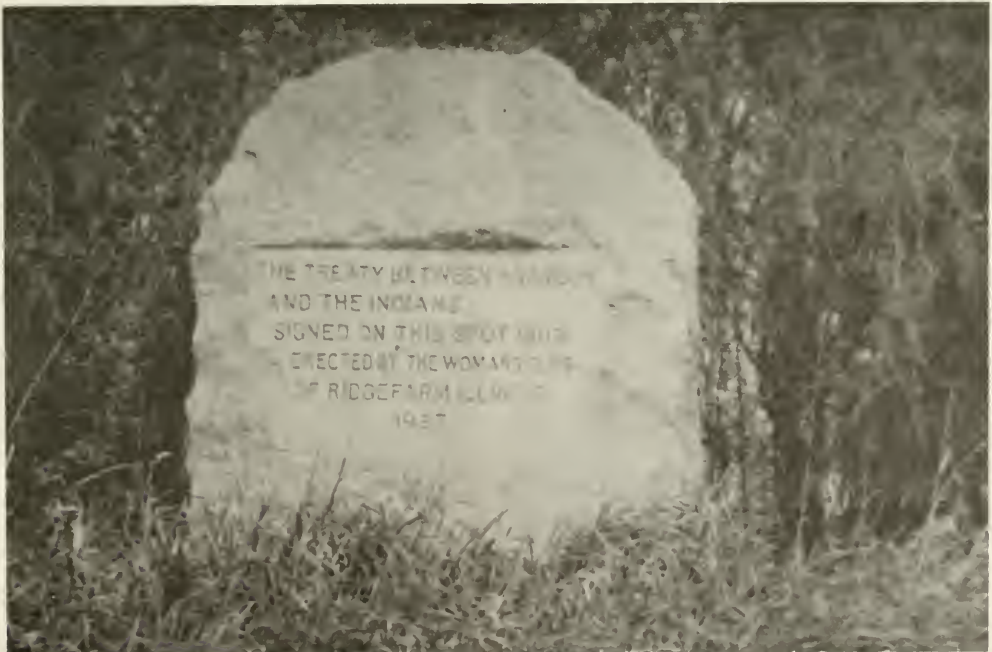
# Harrison Purchase

William Henry Harrison, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, was acquainted with the chiefs of the Indian tribes living on either side of the Wabash River. This helped him negotiate a treaty with them in 1809 to buy land in the Northwest Territory to form new states. He met with selected Indians in a grove east of the present town site of Ridge Farm to clear title to three million acres for \$10,000.00 and a small annuity. Knowing nothing of the compass, the Indians stipulated the boundary line on the East should run in the direction of the sun at 10 A.M. This line became known as the 10 o'clock line and is frequently found on surveyors' and landowners' documents. The Western boundary should be on a line with the sun at 1 P.M. It would include the land which a man could ride on horseback in two and a half days. Two men started out from the only grove of trees and returned to the same landmark which became known as Pilot Grove. After the War of 1812, the land was surveyed and pioneers took

possession. It was called "Texas Country" because it was so wild. Nathaniel Henderson built the first shanty in the Harrison Purchase in 1824. Illinois became a state in 1818, with slavery prohibited, 1/36 of the land to be reserved for maintenance of public schools, and all land nearly free to homesteaders. The Ridge Farm Woman's Club erected the Harrison Purchase Monument in 1927. Polly Ann Castle Baird and Charlotte Castle Neal assisted Mrs. Grace Saunders, President, at the Dedication ceremonies.

Using Indian trails, three Quaker families, a party of 25 or 30, arrived from Tennessee in 1820 or 1821. A scouting party of boys riding ahead of the ox drawn covered wagons, halted in a thicket of hazel brush on a beautiful fall day, and found a clean stream of water nearby—the Little Vermilion, named by Indians for red clay on the banks.

Deciding to stay here, they cleared a campsite, built fires under their huge kettles to cook



HARRISON PURCHASE MONUMENT

In memory of William Franklin Busby and Jessie Mills Busby  
by Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Busby and Robert D. Busby

their hams and dried food, and baked corn ponies in a three-legged iron skillet. The children found wild grapes, crab apples, plums, red haws, nuts, and in the spring, they tapped the sugar trees to make maple syrup.

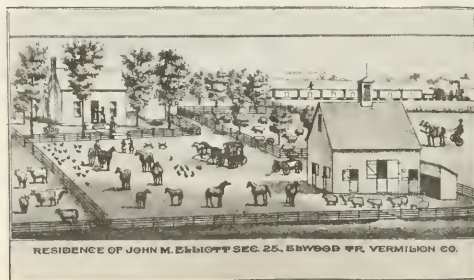
One room log cabins and shelters for the oxen and the cows, which had been tied behind the wagons, were built by John Mills, John Haworth, and Henry Canaday. The latter brought \$4,000.00 in gold and silver in a box in the front of the wagon. The box burst open on a sharp turn and the money fell in a creek, but was recovered. Clearings were made for seeding crops. Before 1826, they were joined by Aaron Mendenhall, John Larrance, Asa Elliott, Andrew Patterson, William Blakeney, Latham Folger, Eli Henderson and their families.

Choosing to be near water, the pioneers settled first at Vermilion Grove, Pilot Grove, Yankee Point, and Bethel.

Henry Canaday's son, John, built on the present State Route 1, his son William built west of Vermilion Grove. William lived on the same farm for 57 years and saw it change from a wilderness through the ingenuity and industry of the early settlers.

Marguerite Canaday Shirkie remembered stories her Grandfather told of the Indians coming to his farm to trade furs (beavers were especially prized) for the products he brought from Terre Haute: blankets, knives, and kettles. The original William Canaday homestead, remodeled, stands one mile West of Vermilion Grove and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Steve McCool. Joseph G. Cannon, "Uncle Joe," often visited here and Mrs. Shirkie's parents attended his inaugural ball at his home in Danville.

Dan Beckwith, for whom Danville is named, spent the night with John Haworth at the time of high water in the spring of 1823. The next morning, as Beckwith resumed his journey home, "he fell in all over" as he crossed the Little Vermilion.



In memory of Dale Mills — by Mills Farm - Gladys Mills and Eugene Mills

lion. Dressed in buckskin breeches, a roundabout, and a wolfskin cap, he went on home as if nothing had happened.

All of the first settlers sold land to desirable newcomers like William Frazier and Benjamin Canaday, who moved from Vermilion Grove to Georgetown to be two of the first merchants there. They were known to be interested in helping neighbors as well as being "good calculators and safe traders."

Richard Mills and his brother William H. farmed as R. & W. H. Mills. They began managing the farm at ten and twelve years of age and specialized in Clydesdale horses. Their grandsons, Robert and Carl Busby and Eugene Mills still farm in this area.

Beriah Haworth drove his livestock to State Line, Indiana, where they were loaded on cars for the East. David Haworth and Miriam Mills were married in 1825, one of the first marriages in Elwood Township. They obtained their license in Paris, since Vermilion County was part of Edgar County until 1826. A gift to his bride was a walnut three-cornered cupboard, with the date 1825 carved in it. It now belongs to their great-grandson, Weldon Harby of Danville, Illinois.

Thomas Hester manufactured wagons and plows, searching the woods to find giant trees from which to carve wooden mold boards.

Andrew Patterson built his house at Bethel of walnut logs so heavy it required all the men in Elwood Township to help raise them. Tom Patterson was Postmaster, store keeper and blacksmith at Bethel in 1848.

Robert Dickson drove 100 head of hogs to the little town of Chicago to be shipped East. Latham Folger, entering land near Pilot Grove, was a tanner and a maker of shoes and horse collars. Thomas Blakeney's family was known for great strength and fine appearance. The names of Humrichouse, Kendall, Wright, Baldwin, and Louis were known then and today. John Humrichouse founded Humrick and was the school director and Justice of the Peace. Amos Cook, born here in 1845, never lived outside Elwood Township. Mr. Busby and Mr. Moreland were dissatisfied with the presidential candidates and were on opposite sides so neither voted. Garrett Dillon, Charles Rice, Tom Graham, James Long, Isaac Rees, Commodore Brown, John Brown, and John Fletcher came soon. The daughter of the William Holadays married Judge S. Murray Clark, who farmed and practiced law in Ridge Farm. Elsbury Gennett patented a glass moth protector



for bee hives, which was a financial success. Asa Ankrum built an elegant three-story house with thirteen rooms.

John Pugh came down the Wabash and settled in 1838. His six year old son fell out of the boat and almost drowned and "That's how close I came to not being here," quips Robert Pugh, presently farming that land.

The Whitlocks came on a prairie schooner

whose prow and keel would rise on a curve to prevent contents from rolling out as they went up and down a hill.

Isaac Wright had a horse-power grist mill, the stones cut out of boulders. Eli Thornton was a carpenter. Charles Brady walked here in 1831 from Centerville, Indiana. He brought with him a land deed bearing the signature of President Jackson.

This Page Compliments of:

Mrs. Harland Hester

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Whitlock

Gleichman Drug ——— Georgetown, Illinois

Prescriptions — Gifts for all Occasions — School Supplies

# Abraham Smith

Founder of Ridge Farm

Abraham Smith came to Illinois from Tennessee and homesteaded 1,000 acres near Vermilion Grove, where he married Mary Canaday. He wanted to venture out on the prairie, to the south, but was warned against the daring idea of farming where no one else had tried. In 1839, he moved to his farm on the glacial ridge and proudly called it his Farm on the Ridge or Ridge Farm. His wife said later that things did look bleak and rough when she came there to live on Christmas Day. He established a Post Office and was the first Postmaster. He opened a blacksmith shop, an inn and a general store. Since there was no other stopping place for miles for the stage coach between Danville and Paris, he was obliged to "keep tavern" for the travelers. Four-horse coaches were put on the route the following spring for daily trips through the village.



Site of the first house in Ridge Farm. At present the home of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rigdon, Sr.

Abraham Lincoln, Danville's young lawyer, was a frequent guest at the tavern as he traveled his circuit. A register of guests was kept and it included his name. Mrs. Frances Foster Rafferty, now of Florida, recalls her great-grandmother, Matilda Harvey, Mr. Smith's daughter, telling her of sitting on his lap while he told her stories when he was at Smith's tavern.

Lydia Smith Pierce, another daughter, lived in the home place and is mentioned elsewhere in this history.

Abraham Smith plotted 13 lots on the west side of the State road on November 10, 1853. Thomas Haworth, J. W. Thompson, A. B. Whinrey



ABOVE: Lincoln Trail Marker

BELOW: Headstone in Vermilion Grove Cemetery marking grave of Abraham Smith



This Page Compliments of:  
Frances Foster Rafferty

# Early Businesses



Original plat of Ridge Farm — 1874

each made additions. R. H. Davis, J. H. Banta, and H. C. Smith followed suit. The center of town was near the Big Four Railroad. The pump still standing between the present elevator and lumber yard was the Town Pump. Farmers watered their horses when they brought grain to the elevator. There was a tin cup fastened to the pump for everyone to quench his thirst.

The township, organized by the county in 1850, was named Elwood for an English Quaker writer.

Abraham Smith built a steam mill three stories high, costing \$10,000, which was burned out in 1863.



Original town pump by the elevator

With the building of the railroad in 1873-74, business increased along the tracks. A large flour mill, built by the Davis Brothers in 1874, was rated one of the best in the country. It was purchased by Banta and Coppock, who sold it to A. J. Darnall and A. B. Winfrey. An extensive grain business was built up by W. F. Banta, shipping 700 car loads of grain and 300 cars of baled hay per year.

Samuel Weeks, Josh Bolden, Tom Mendenhall, Marion Harrold and Warren Young were blacksmiths at different intervals in the village. Noah Millage had a welding shop.

Lumber yard business has been handled by Adam Mills, C. D. Hayward, Jones & Jones, Schermerhorn & Son (Ernest), Carl Erdmann for 29 years; and at present, by George Cornwell.

Thomas Haworth built a store to rent for hardware. J. P. Tuttle and Son's Hardware was open for over half a century. Sam Rafferty and E. E. Henthorn had a hardware store for many years across the street. In later years the hardware store has been owned by Herschel Stout, Chauncey Williams and his father, and at present is owned by Adam and Mary Jane Latoz. The Latoz ownership is in its 21st year.

In 1857, John Dickens built a tavern on the southwest corner of the present square. Other hotel keepers were Mr. Ashton and Lindley Hadley, who met six passenger trains a day, as they all stopped here. Drummers had a display room where merchants came to buy. In the hotel's ten rooms, the only one heated was the Bridal Suite,



Lindley Hadley's Hotel — now an apartment house owned by Mr. Dwight Buss. Telephone office left.

which had a fireplace. There was no bath, just a wash bowl, pitcher and chamber pot. Three big tables in the dining room were full almost every meal, with two and three girls helping in the

This Page by Compliments of

Ridge Farm Lumber, Inc.

Murray Phenicie . . . Trojan Seed Corn

B. C. Christopher Grain Co., Ridge Farm, Illinois — Eugene "Bud" Huchel, Mgr.

kitchen. Mrs. Vera Pugh remembers carrying milk in a two gallon pail for her Uncle Lindley Hadley's Hotel, which was located across the street from the present library.

Dr. Swaim built a new hotel, which Mr. Hadley managed. It stood on the northeast corner of the square and was wrecked in 1938. In 1888 William H. Downs had the Southern Hotel.

An ad in the 1919 *Republican* says, "J. O. Prater wants to sell or lease a 14-room hotel with excellent business established." He wanted to get out on the farm. This same paper carried an ad for the Ridge Farm Cafe with Carl Galbreath and Dan Schrinier offering "Good Eats" and an invitation to "drop in when you're hungry and thirsty." Dan Schrinier provided candy to the children at Christmas time. Other restaurant owners in the village have been: Forbes, Harris, Maude Hugg, Emma "Grandma" Gardner, Metheny's, Charlie and Ruth Ankrum, Bob and Sally Newlin, Pat Scifres, Harry Brown, Roy Hawkins, Jr., Paul and Oscarine Gardner, and Mrs. Mosier. At the present time Dane and Eula Binkley operate The Hut and Wayne Blakeney operates Ridgeway Lanes, a combination bowling alley and restaurant.

Sam Weeks, Lynch, and Walter & Price were early druggists on the northwest corner of the square. Doctors were Carr and Johnson. Later, Charles Hornada and his son, Will, operated a drug store for many years. Mrs. Charles (Hortense) Hornada lived to be 100 years of age. In 1932 Hornada's advertised a special—\$1.00 full fashioned hose and 50¢ face powder for 79¢. Since that time drug stores have been owned by Grover Blayney, Kook and Link and Elmer Morgan.

Amos Milholland, a Civil War veteran, met six passenger trains a day with his wheel barrow to transport mail to the Post Office. He also

cleaned, filled and lighted the street lights each evening. These lights were square kerosene lamps installed in 1895. Marion Francis also worked at this.

John Spears and Bill Lake met all trains to get the freight with their drays, which were low wagons having detachable sides. During rainy weather four horses had to be hitched to the dray to pull it through the mud.

There were board walks in the main part of town, and blocks of wood driven into the ground for stepping stones to cross the streets, which were often very muddy. Water often stood all summer long under these sidewalks that were on stilts. These puddles were the breeding grounds for summer's plentiful supply of mosquitoes.



RICHARDSON & NORRIS STORE — Presently the site of the Sundries Store

Furniture was sold by C. D. Hayward, Quincy Jagers, and Brewer's (Frank, Don, and Gerald). They were in business for 60 years—selling furniture and operating the local funeral home. Paul Honnold and son, James, are the owners of the funeral home at this time.

Frank Harrold and Marion Reese had a millinery and dry goods store in the "Union Block." A. B. Whinrey was one of the first mercantile merchants here; then Ashton, Purkhisers, Goodwin, A. J. Darnall, Bedinger and A. P. Saunders, who started business when the village was centered on the railroad. He moved to the newer location on Route 1. When the fire of 1932 damaged his store, a fire sale closed out his business. School boys bought straw hats, suspenders and wore them to class. Rachel and Esther Snider owned a flourishing department store on the southeast corner of the square. Other similar stores have been owned by George Martin, Thelma Foster, and Joe Wasko.



Farmers State Bank in 1895. Note the street lights and wooden sidewalks. Compare with picture of this same building shown in chapter on banks in Ridge Farm.

In memory of Claud and Lena Banta, Wayne Banta and Dan Schrinier  
by Irma E. Banta, Walter and Dorthy Banta, Irene Banta, Howard and Norma  
Banta, Clara E. Ellis, Bob and Virginia Shamburg and Paul and Dorothy Hartsfield.





Left to right: Mrs. Canaday, Cleo Craven Bond, Jessie Rice, June Ankrum and Grace Harrold (store owner)

Farm implements have been handled by Jones and Jones, Howard Mills, E. C. Smith, W. W. Peck, Doyne King, Harlan Hester, Jim Bell, International Harvester (Wallace Deck), Vance Pearson and Wayne Stephenson.

Mr. Morgan in 1888 "carried a full stock of everything in the grocery line—queensware, glass, provisions, and tobacco. Capital Stock \$1800.00, annual sales, \$8,000.00." John Kendall was an early grocer, as was Roe Myers, J. A. Kern, Frank McCloud, B. F. and Grace Moore, Ralph Hubbard, Henderson, Carl Galbreath, "Butch" Martin, Elijah Smith, Joe Enright and Orie Rigdon. Lane Hueston, Dan Schriener and Frank Carsman came from Cayuga and bought out Frank McCloud. J. A. Kern advertised "200 lb. flour on hand" in 1903. Lane Hueston gave away \$500.00 in premiums. All items were handled in bulk. Grocers reached to high shelves with long wooden handles to get any item the shopper wanted. Bills were added with a pencil. Ernest "Pedro" Baker delivered groceries on a bicycle in 1918, later by truck. He and Kenneth Hawkins bought out Frank Carsman in 1949 and added an adding machine, new shelves and carts for self service. "Pedro" retired from the grocery business and it became known as Hawkins Market. Today Mr. and Mrs. Phil Skinner are the owners of The Ridge Farm Star Market.

In 1919 farmers could sell cream to Mr. McCloud or to Walter Madsen at the Ridge Farm Creamery. Sugar Creek butter, that was made in Ridge Farm, was shipped all over the U. S. Dane Binkley recalls how sad it was when his father, Porter Binkley, spilled a can of cream while driving over icy roads to town to sell it. Emmett Biggs also had a cream station for many years, as did Dorothy Truett.

Poultry and eggs were handled by J. W. Myers, then by Mose Chew.

The first electric plant was behind the



Hornada's Drug Store—on the southeast corner of the square. In right of picture is the barber shop.

Lower Picture: Charles and Hortense Hornada

present Hester Antiques building. It supplied lights for the town. It burned down and was replaced by one built north of Frank Fellers' home. This plant also made ice.

Tom Warner had a butcher shop. Thompson's Meat Market burned out in 1923. Quinns had a bakery, as did Q. W. Mohler & Son. Harness shops were owned by Cowan, Art & Lon Biggs, and Milton Mills.

Austin Implement Co. offered "special prices on cultivators" in 1913. H. O. Fletcher sold tires (both steel and rubber), cream separators and farm implements.



Garages have been operated by: Herbert Harrold, George Henderson, Howard Mills, Herman Harrington, Don L. Jones, E. P. Jones, Myers and Son, McKinley Henderson, Charles Harrold, Walter Lange, Jim Bell and Bob Bell. At present, Wayne Stephenson is operating a garage. In 1932 Johnson's garage on West Main offered "\$1.00 grease jobs for 50¢."

Frank Fellers operated a tile and brick factory. Two ovens south of the present house were fired by Bonner Fellers after school. It is said that the bricks used in constructing the Fellers home were fired here.

L. W. Hole, the first boy baby born in Ridge Farm, owned a candy kitchen, as did Goodwin and Canaday. Charles Bailey would "clip" horses at the C. F. Cooke barn in 1903. William Downs owned a livery stable in 1888. Asa Hathaway had a livery stable before going into the insurance business. William H. York had a livery stable in 1898 with five horses and carriages to rent by the hour or for the day and night. But, in bad weather



TOP: Fred Smith and the white horse, "Doc."

MIDDLE: Fred Smith with "Kelly" drawing the wagon

BOTTOM: Fred Smith now has a "Tin Lizzie" (the dog is Buster).



The Ice Plant at Ridge Farm

they had to be housed at night. There were hitching posts all over town. Mrs. Vera Pugh remembers that runaways were frequent and exciting. Mr. York's daughters, later to become Mrs. Glenna Frentzel and Mrs. Kathryn Randolph, were expert equestriennes. Bill Peck and Dick Boaz also had a livery barn. Mrs. Blanche Pugh Mills recalls their warnings to her father that the road east of town had a bad mud hole and a strong team would be needed to get through. His strong team was once mired down in the swamps made by willows.

An ice plant by the Cloverleaf Railroad was operated by T. E. Smith and provided ice for Emmett and Fred Smith (not related to T. E. Smith). After it burned, T. E. Smith moved to Chrisman, then to Georgetown, but continued to provide ice for their business. Ice delivery was made by horse-drawn wagons all over town, or it was made available at the store on West Main Street for those wanting to make a freezer of ice cream or to fill the wooden ice box. This ice box was often placed on the back porch to avoid the drip pan running over as the ice melted. The white delivery horse, Doc, was well known. Smith and Weathers sold ice in 1919. Mechanical refrig-

This Page Compliments of  
The Bea Martin Farm  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Martin Rhoden  
Chrisman, Illinois

Robert F. Bell

Stephenson's Garage, W. Wayne Stephenson, Owner

erators stopped this business in 1942. Tomatoes were weighed here at Smith Ice & Coal Co. during the 1940's, when Raymond Orrick was contracting growers in this area for a canning company from Terre Haute, Indiana. Ernest J. Smitley uses this building now for a workshop and tool storage.

The site of our present Post Office was storage bins for coal sold by Fred Smith. Early in the fall, coal was shipped into Ridge Farm by rail—then loaded by hand into wagons and hauled up town to the coal bins, where it was unloaded and stored until sold. The coal was then loaded



In winter Fred Smith and "Kelly" delivered coal



Early Ridge Farm Barber Shop

onto wagons again and hauled to a home and unloaded again. One didn't just flip a switch to get warm.

Shoes have been repaired by Perry Wills, Kegley, and Max Dillman. Perry Wills' old shoe



G. A. R. Hall (with steeple). The Hut now stands at this location.

repair shop became the original "Hut" when Mr. Wills retired in 1930. The Hut was owned and operated by Charles and Ruth Ankrum.

Insurance was offered through the years by: Hiberly and McMahan, O. A. Sanks, Lane Hueston, Asa Hathaway, John and Tom Foster. Clay Cooke, Nolin and Russell Weathers, Don High, Steve Kelley, and Kenneth Hawkins.

Dentists were Dr. Mendenhall at Vermilion Grove, 1877; Dr. Jonah Hole and son, Dr. Frank Hole; and Dr. Strauss. The stand for Dr. Hole's drill is still in use here. It is the base for a stand for Herb Baird's parrots.

The early doctors are remembered for common sense and kindness which seemed to compensate for the short training period—three years. Abraham Smith, Founder of our town, has been called the first; he made pills and sold them, calling them "Quaker Abraham's Pills."

Physicians Isaac Smith & Haywood practiced at Vermilion Grove. Dr. Boswell Ward gave the land for Ridge Farm's park, known as Ward Park. He left here to organize Ward Wholesale Drug Company in Indianapolis. His brother-in-law Dr. Guffin went from Ridge Farm to the Civil War and became a lieutenant. Doctors Cutler, Nash, Sulcer, Steel, Green, Snyder, Griffin, Holaday and McCloud served this community at different intervals throughout the years. Dr. Swaim treated 40 cases of typhoid in 1888. Dr. John

This Page Compliments of

"Ken" Hawkins — Country Companies Insurance Co.

Life — Health — Fire — Auto — Hail

Hawkins Food Market

Phone 247-2455 or 442-8711

Ridge Farm, Illinois



WARD PARK— Given to the village by Dr. Boswell Ward

Morton moved on to Detroit as an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist and was replaced by Dr. S. M. Hubbard. Dr. D. C. Hinshaw and his wife, Lois, who was an Osteopathic Physician, and Dr. H. F. Dice were all practicing medicine in Ridge Farm at this time. In later years the community received the services of Dr. Andrew Geller, Dr. E. W. Lowry and Dr. Tillotson. At present, Dr. Thomas A. Georges, a chiropractor, is practicing here. Dr. Fletcher practiced here two years before moving to Georgetown. J. A. Pierce was an Optician in 1904. Druggists often sold eye glasses also.

Hugh Gilkerson, an architect, was the son-in-law of Dr. Jonah Hole.

Veterinarians were A. A. Clark and Marion "Cubie" Wills. Dr. Clark, "phone 152, ring 4," and Fred Harrell, keeper, were offering services at the breeding barn of six stallions according to a copy of a 1913 *Ridge Farm Republican*.

Barber shops were operated by Davis, Skates, Charles Baum, Clyde Gilkey, George Baker, Everett Sams, and Claude Williams, Herb Baird owns the local barber shop at the present time.

When Florence Mendenhall served in France as a nurse in World War I, one girl in her company was sent home because she bobbed her hair. After Miss Mendenhall became Mrs. A. A. Clark she had Charles Baum cut her hair. At one time Irma Schriener Banta gave Marcells to the local ladies. For a number of years Juanita "Nita" Williams Hance operated a beauty shop in Ridge Farm. Now there are three shops in town and they are owned by Glen Williams, Mary Susan Loop, and Mary Meeker.



Rafferty and Henthorn Hardware  
west side of State Street.

This Page Compliments of  
Thomas A. Georges, D.C.

7 West West St.

Ridge Farm, Ill.





"Becky" and J. P. Tuttle awaiting the interurban to Danville for the theatre, then dinner out.

## AN EARLY BUSINESSMAN

J. P. Tuttle & Son Hardware was in business in Ridge Farm for half a century. In addition to J. P., C. L. Tuttle, Archie Tuttle and Florence worked in the store. Florence was also assistant Postmaster under Charles Baum.

Mrs. Tuttle's grandfather, Nicholas Stevenson entered and farmed 640 acres east of town. A. James Stevenson is her only descendant living in Illinois



Merchandising 50 years ago was as different from today's as were the products sold. Such items as horse collars, alarm clocks, coal burning stoves, kerosene lamps and barb wire were staples. Each year a two-weeks Majestic

Range Extravaganza Sale would be held, with daily serving of hot biscuits and coffee. A complete set of granite cookware was given with each sale. Finally, a ten-layer cake would be baked, tested for resilience (on the unpaved street), then eaten by all.

This Page Compliments of  
Florence Tuttle (Mrs. Homer) Smith

## RIDGE FARM

### COMMUNITY FAMILY

One family, in business probably the longest continuous period of time, was the family of Frank Brewer, who with his son Don and grandson Gerald, were in the furniture business and also the undertaking business for 60 years. Frank was song leader in the Presbyterian Church and later the Federated Church for many years. He and Don were both members of the famed K of P Band. Don was conductor of the band for a long period of time. Gerald was a member of the Danville Municipal Band. They had the first funeral home in Ridge Farm, taking the place of the funeral parlor sharing space in the furniture store.



FRANK

owns and manages the store, does the buying.

He is always glad to welcome you to the store --- whether you buy or not.

Licensed Embalmer  
and Undertaker.

## THE BREWER FURNITURE STORE

RIDGEFARM, ILLINOIS

Beautiful Furniture  
Period Furniture  
Durable Furniture

A very large assortment of  
Rugs and Linoleum, with carefully  
selected patterns, as we desire to  
please you with our service.

The two floors of our store  
carry besides the above

PIANOS,  
WALLPAPER,  
DISHES,

Badley and Vrooman Paint.

Commencing May 1st we give you a  
**Discount of 5 Percent  
for Cash---**

You are entitled to it.

**Prices You Can Afford.**



DON

drives the yellow truck, will gladly show you anything in the store from a piano to sewing machine needle.

Frames Your Pictures

Trims the Show Window

Lays Your Linoleum.

He is also a  
Licensed Embalmer

In memory of William W. and Della Smith Peck, Donald W. and Leona Peck Brewer,  
Frank and Catherine Wise Brewer, and Gerald Brewer--by Verna Peck and Lina Brewer.





BELOW: Four generations of the Brewer family—  
David, Gerald, Don and Frank



Knights of Pythias Band

This Page Compliments of  
 Jack Smitley — Building Contractor  
 Beverlee Smith . . . Portrait Artist      Jo Ann Emory Garringer

**RIDGEFARM, ILLINOIS**

Is an enterprising town of more than 1,000 population in Vermilion County, 16 miles south of Danville, the county seat. It is situated on the Vermilion County paved road, the Clover Leaf and Big Four Railroads, and the Illinois Traction System. The town is located in one of the best farming sections of the State. It has electric lights, paved streets, four churches, township high school, Carnegie Library, and beautiful homes. An estimable people are found here. We are boosting for Ridgefarm.

**BUSINESS BOOSTERS**

**First National Bank**  
Banking and Farm Loans

**Dr. F. M. Hole**  
Dentist

**Frank Jones Grain Co.**  
Grain

**Ridgefarm Creamery Ass'n**  
Fancy Creamery Butter

**B. F. Moore**  
Staple and Fancy Groceries

**Louis W. Hole**  
Fine Candies, Cigars and Tobacco

**Maple Hotel**  
J. O. Prater, Manager

**Farmers' Elevator Co.**  
Grain

**Cox's Cafe**  
G. N. Cox, Prop.

**A. P. Saunders & Son**  
Dry Goods, Clothing and Shoes

**A. V. Schermerhorn & Son**  
Lumber and Building Material

**J. W. Myers—Phone 73**  
Poultry, Eggs, Hides and Furs

**Frank Brewer**  
Furniture and Undertaking

**Monroe Ewing**  
Jeweler

**A. A. Clark**  
Veterinarian

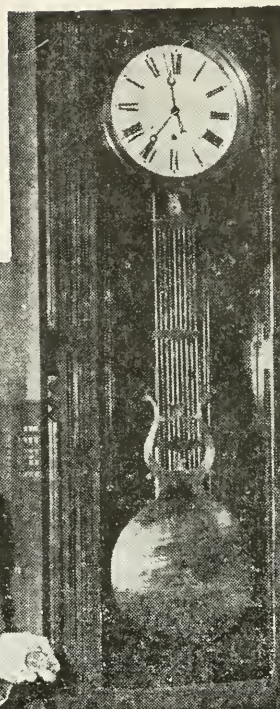
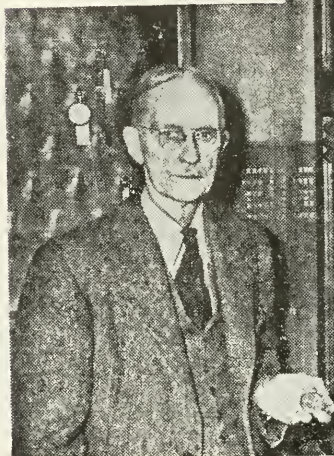
**Dr. P. H. Swaim**  
Physician and Surgeon

**C. J. Hornada**  
Druggist

**Milton Mills**  
Implement Dealer

**The Ridgefarm Republican**  
A. H. Glick, Publisher

**Ewing**



Monroe Ewing closed out his business and retired in 1948 after fifty-three years of service as a watch and clock repairman and jeweler. Mr. Ewing's business occupied the same building for 37 years. He also sold stationery, school textbooks and supplies.

Shortly after coming here he purchased a large Swiss Jeweler's Regulation clock. Local people and visitors passing by checked their watches by this clock and it was greatly missed when it was moved from this building. The clock is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Nolin Earl (Carolyn) Weathers.

When Mr. Ewing came to Ridge Farm, the streets were graveled, there were log crossings and very few buildings. He watched the town grow into a thriving little village.

In 1904 he owned Ridge Farm's first automobile, a Murray. That same year he married Rose Pursell of Broadripple, Indiana. They had three children. Their son, James Frederic, and his wife, Geraldine (Bell), still reside here.

# Ridge Farm

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

## CIVIL WAR NEWS RECEIVED AT WOODYARD STATION

Because of its location on the highest ground in this area, Woodyard Station, two miles south of Ridge Farm, was a logical place for riders to stop during Civil War days. When the resident, Scarsfield Clark, received news from the war, he hoisted a flag on top of a tremendous flag pole to tell his neighbors to visit him. They came from miles to share his information.

Lewis and Catherine Woodyard and their 13 children came from Virginia in 1865 to homestead here. After staying in Paris for two weeks, they came on north and moved into an abandoned cabin on top of a knoll east of the present Taylor Grain Elevator. Sixteen-year-old Anna was sent to the neighbor's to buy a cup of cream. At a cabin where the elevator office now stands, she found a broken-hearted woman crying, "Abraham Lincoln has died from an assassin's bullet." She ran back home with the tragic news. That's how Ridge Farm learned of the death of the President who had visited here often. Anna Woodyard was the grandmother of Carl and Robert Busby.

Henry Woodyard, grandson of Scarsfield Clark, announced during World War I, that Old Glory would fly again from this vantage point to serve notice of news from the war front.

A Canadian Sergeant of the State Council of Defense spoke at the Vermilion-Edgar County

Meeting. Mrs. Mary K. Harrold remembers that he emphasized in his talk that he had heard of the raising of the flag whenever news was received from the Civil War.

A 12' x 18' flag, presented to Mr. Woodyard by Paris Chamber of Commerce flew from a 97' flag pole of white poplar.

Eight thousand people attended the Vermilion-Edgar County meeting and the Red Cross sold refreshments. Miss Katherine Stapp recalls she and other Chrisman Camp Fire Girls sold water from the only well on this very hot day in August, 1918. Adults objected to their efforts to help the Red Cross, so they gave up their fund-raising project.

Aviators from Chanute Field gave a brilliant exhibition of air warfare. The Soldiers Home Band, Fife and Drum Corps from Danville, bands from Ridge Farm, Paris and Georgetown were there. The speakers' stand was erected in a shady spot of lawn and decorated with the flags of allied countries. The huge crowd was seated all around. Banners proclaimed three liberty loans subscribed to—eight million dollars—at the very gala affair.

## INCORPORATION OF RIDGE FARM

A petition to incorporate the village of Ridge Farm, population 350, was signed by Uriah Hadley and others and filed in County Court on March 3, 1874. The court declared an election should be held on March 21 at the store of J. C. Pierce to vote on incorporation. George H. Dice, R. H. Davis and J. H. Banta were appointed judges of election. Of 51 votes cast 49 were affirmative. The court ordered another election held April 22 to vote for six trustees to serve until regular election in course under the law. The Trustees chosen were J. H. Banta (54), M. A. Harrold (32), T. C. Rees (31), clerk, A. J. Darnall (45), President, H. B. Whinrey (53), Moses Lewis (25), and J. D. Harrold (25).

There was no doubt of the election of the first five named above, but just who the sixth trustee was became an exciting question in the local politics of Ridge Farm. There was no provision in the law for "drawing straws" and if a game of draw-poker had been eligible to decide it, neither of the contestants were adept in that.



Taylor Grain Co., Formerly Woodyard Station  
and site of the flag pole

This Page Compliments of

Taylor Grain Co. — Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Taylor, Pam and Mike



Word reached Danville about this situation and Judge Hanford became the one to untangle this unforeseen development. He cited Moses and J. D. Harrold before his court (sheriff's fees, five dollars, which was duly paid) to plead, answer or demur, and show cause why each one had conspired to block the wheels of incorporation of Ridge Farm, duly ordered by said court, in persisting to receive each an equal number of votes.

The court looked severe and ordered the two recalcitrants to stand up and draw straws. Lewis got the long straw and was duly declared the victor, and the waiting village was ushered into corporate being. It is related that both parties paid their own expenses to Danville and back without grumbling, which speaks well of their good bearing under trying circumstances. On the first day of May, the Board of Trustees organized

by electing A. J. Darnall, President (Manford "Mike" Darnall, A. J.'s grandson, has lived all his life in Ridge Farm in a house built on the site of his grandfather's house), and T. C. Rees, Clerk. They adopted a set of ordinances and fixed the compensation of officers: Trustees to have one dollar per meeting; treasurer, one per centum; collector, two per centum, and assessor one dollar and fifty cents per day. The offices of collector and assessor were afterward dispensed with. At the regular election in 1875 the following were chosen: President, M. A. Harrold; Trustees—Whinrey, A. M. Mills, C. Lewis, S. Haworth, and H. R. Craven. T. C. Rees was elected police magistrate, James Quinn, clerk and E. Goodwin, constable. J. H. Banta was mayor in 1888-1889, and he vetoed the whiskey license ordinance passed by the town council. Terry Banta, J. H. Banta's great-grandson, is our present mayor.



This Page Compliments of  
 Terry Banta, Village President, Kathryn and Kathy Banta      Mr. and Mrs. Manford Darnall  
 Bob White Oldsmobile-Cadillac, Inc. Hwy. 150, Danville, Illinois

## ROADS

Soon after State Route 1 from Chicago to Vincennes was laid out, George W. Smith, with the help of his brother and father, secured six yoke of oxen and one team of horses and plowed out the furrows to make a track from Elwood to Chrisman. For this he received five dollars from Amos Williams, Danville pioneer and contractor. Many of Smith's descendants use this highway today.

The Road Act of 1827 stipulated the legal width of roads should be not less than 30 feet nor more than 50 feet. Later it was increased to 60 feet, but did not alter the first roads. Ridge Farm's dirt streets were replaced by brick or concrete in 1917.

Elwood Township included the present Love Township until 1902, when asked to form their own. Elwood took the lead in liberal use of stone and gravel for roads and built more than any other township.

Albert Henderson, Justice of the Peace, certified in 1913 the statement of road funds published by R. S. Bines, Road Commissioner. Later, Howard Fletcher, William Henderson and Ernest

Hackler were the road commissioners. At present time, Bill Kinney is serving in that capacity. In 1920, \$25,000.00 was voted for stone and gravel roads.

## FIRST CARS

Monroe Ewing's 1900 Murray was one of the first cars here. Ruth Castle remembers the treat of riding down the cemetery road in it. Howard Mills had a Case auto which he drove everywhere to play football. He was manager and team member of Ridge Farm's professional football team. Danny Mills had the first red roadster Locomobile built high off the ground. Henry Woodyard owned a big, heavy Locomobile. Jack Banta liked bicycle racing and also his Locomobile. Herbert Harrold sold "Brushy" Coe a Locomobile and when he drove under some low tree branches, the top was brushed off, but he took it to the garage and had it replaced. A. V. Schermerhorn and George Henderson first had their Ford garage near the present lumber yard, then they moved to the location of Hester's Antique Shop. Charles Harrold sold Fords here and McKinley Henderson was a Chevrolet dealer.



Monroe Ewing's Car—first in Ridge Farm, it was a 1900 Murray.

This Page Compliments of  
Ruth Fletcher Castle and George Z. Castle





The cars are showing up in Ridge Farm  
Occupants of this one unknown.

### THE WEANING CABIN

Harry Payne, 90, remembers the log cabin in the John Buell woods on the Little Vermilion River near Yankee Point. It was there as far back as he can remember and was used as a "weaning pen" for newly-weds to live in until spring weather came, at which time a "house raising" could be held with the help of neighbors to lift heavy rafters and frame work into place.

The cabin was heated by a fireplace which filled the one room with smoke on stormy, windy days; it contained two beds, chairs, and a table. Mr. Payne believes ten couples used the temporary home. Often Frank and John Buell stayed there at night during sugar water season.

A shack twenty feet away was used to boil down the sugar water into maple syrup, and the furnace provided a place for a chicken "friz," while sassafrass tea made with the hot water was delicious. When the Coal Company bought their land and they moved to the present John and Paris Hester farm they numbered the logs, took apart the cabin, and reassembled them by their house.

There were many good times at the cabin and Mr. and Mrs. John Hester graciously donated it to the Centennial. Hopefully, it may be seen in the village during Centennial time.



The Weaning Cabin

This Page Compliments of  
Deutsch Bros. On the Mall Danville, Ill.  
Georgetown Auto Supply

Jordan's Bootery Danville, Ill.  
Weiss Standard - Ridge Farm



**LINCOLN MARKER**

The taverns and homes where Lincoln visited in this vicinity were dilapidated or gone by 1920, so the Lincoln Marker Association was organized to place markers at adjoining county lines over his entire judicial circuit in Illinois.

Miss Flo Woodbury, Danville, asked members of the Ridge Farm D. A. R. unit to help with this project. The Presbyterian Ladies' Aid served fried chicken and oyster dinners to large crowds assembled for this event. November 13, 1923, was chosen for unveiling the concrete marker one mile south of town on the Edgar County line on State Route 1.



**K. of P. Band on the March**

Don Brewer and Allen Degee led the K. of P. Band to the marker on land donated by Manford Darnall. The grade school students marched behind them.

Charles Harrold and William Foley Clark, small sons of members of Governor Bradford and Madame Rachel Edgar D. A. R. Chapters, did the unveiling. Attorney O. D. Mann, whose father entertained Lincoln in his Danville home, told stories of the Great Emancipator.

## FIRST WHITE GIRL BORN IN RIDGE FARM

Lydia Smith Pierce, daughter of the founder, Abraham Smith, was the first white girl born, 1840, at Ridge Farm. She remembered Indian children playing in their yard and coming to the house to ask for food.

She told of watching Abraham Lincoln and her father sitting on the front porch, deep in conversation, when Lincoln spent the night in the first tavern here. He drank water from the well just south of their house.

She helped her father set out the maple trees which still partially shade South State Street.

Another house was built in 1844, just 50 feet from the first one. Except for six months spent in the South with her husband, Jack Pierce, during the Civil War, her entire life was spent within a few feet of her father's cabin.

This was also the site of an "underground railroad station" to help fugitive slaves escape to the North to freedom. She recalled those experiences. Mrs. Pierce died at 92 in the house where Robert and Marian Rigdon live now. Mrs. Irma Banta recalls visiting with her next door neighbor when she was an invalid, cared for by Juletta Henderson. Many remember her son, Joe Pierce, and his wife, Ola Fletcher Pierce.

## EARLY MERCHANT

John Kern, born 1861, remembered when our town was laid out on the open prairie and also when the maple trees were planted. For a



**J. A. Kern**

## JOHN BOLDEN

John Bolden, born in slavery, escaped from his owner and served with the Union Army in Ohio. After establishing a home in Ridge Farm, he returned to Tennessee to get his wife, Ann. He operated a blacksmith shop on West Main Street for years. Mrs. Bolden cleaned and pressed clothes for Dr. A. A. Clark and others. The ten Bolden children attended schools here. Mr. and Mrs. Bolden, members of the Ridge Farm Methodist Church, are buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.



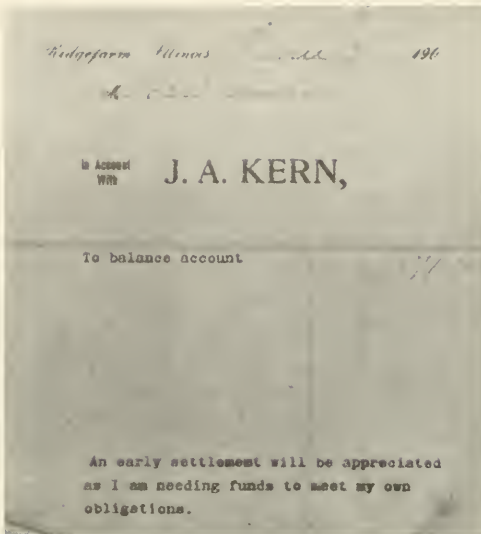
Outside of the John Bolden Blacksmith Shop

## A CENTENNIAL HOME

Rufus H. Davis built a \$6,000 home in 1874 in the "suburbs of Ridge Farm." Three rooms on each of three floors, heated by fireplaces having marble mantles, and a porch extending on two sides of the house were some of the features of the house. When the Robert Hamiltons purchased



their home at 101 East Elwood, they were told it was the sixth oldest house in Ridge Farm. Carpenters putting in a picture window for them marvelled at the construction and materials used in the original house built a century ago.



Statement of Account with J. A. Kern — 1903

penny a day he drove a cow in to milk in the evening. Nearly everyone had chickens, a horse, a cow, a garden and an orchard. First, a blacksmith, then a grocer here for 40 years, he retired at 84, lived to be 93. He and his wife, the former Lillie Haworth, moved to Urbana in order for their four daughters to attend the University. Emma married author, Frazier Hunt, whom she met there.

When they returned to Ridge Farm, Mrs. Kern helped organize the Woman's Club, the Chautauqua Course and actively supported the movement to obtain the Carnegie Library. Their only daughter now living is Mrs. Ethel Emory, 80, Ridge Farm.



An early blacksmith, John Bolden inside his shop

This Page Compliments of

Ridge Farm Sundries Management and Employees  
20 Ridge Farm Youth Center

Chrisman Farm Center, Inc. Massey-Ferguson Sales and Service  
Reichert Dodge Georgetown, Illinois



Miss Esther Cowan, Danville, has papers her grandfather, Rufus H. Davis, wrote concerning his life here, and they are all confirmed in "Friends in Illiana, 1826."

Rufus H. Davis and Lydia Hornaday were married April 9, 1856, at Vermilion Grove after the "Manner of Friends." Their intention to marry was announced at a preceding Monthly Meeting. Witnessing the ceremony performed by themselves were Abraham and Mary Smith, John and Joel Haworth, Frederick Canaday, James and Rachel Rees, John and Rachel Henderson, William and Caroline Hornaday, George and Mary Maden. Their vows were given in the church, but could have been at a home.

His friend and neighbor, Abraham Smith, was more rebellious. He and Mary were rebuked by the meeting for marrying "contrary to discipline" which the Davis couple had obeyed. The Smiths were also guilty of "deviation from plain dress." But both of them "condemned their misconduct," were reinstated in good standing in the



RUFUS DAVIS



Dr. and Addie Ward Guffin home—built 1867  
Located on South State Street

meeting November 6, 1852, and Abraham served on the committee to raise funds for colored people. Mary was named elder June 2, 1866, at Vermilion Grove, after they moved to their ridge farm.

Rufus H. Davis was named treasurer of the Ridge Farm Friends Church at the organization meeting in 1873 and gave the meeting \$500 at that time.

Davis also built a two-story brick store building for \$6,000 in Ridge Farm in 1875, and with his brother Jonah built the grist mill for \$11,000 which stood where the elevator now is. They sold it to Banta and Coppock, the store to Foster and his land to Henry Banta.

Davis was on the town's first election board. He led a group of 1100 at a Republican Rally in Danville and won the prize, a silk flag, for heading the largest company.

He and brother Jonah taught at Vermilion Grove, Ridge Farm and Pilot Grove. Jonah's



VERMILION GROVE: A Town called "Peanut"



Henry and Anna Cole home—built 1876  
Presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cole  
Morton—1 mile west of town.

daughter, Ruby Davis, had retired after a lifetime of teaching English at Earlham College. Bonner Fellers often visited her, his former teacher.

Rufus Davis wrote of enjoying the World's Fair in Chicago, 1893, with "some of the Ridge Farm boys." The "Ridge Farm boys" that he spoke of had invested in some gold bricks, which proved out later to be worthless. Mr. Davis sold the land and house next door to Albert Mendenhall in 1879. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Livengood.

William Herron Brown, his wife, Lydia Lusk Brown, and son, Salmon H. Brown, moved to the Pilot Grove area in 1852. They had just sold

their farm near Montezuma, Indiana. S. H. Brown and John L. Brown remained in the Ridge Farm area the rest of their lives. The S. H. Brown and J. L. Brown homes were listed among the impressive homes in 1911. Other homes were those of: W. F. Banta, Isaac Woodyard, Dr. Guffin, and A. P. Saunders. The home of Ted Henderson on East West Street was the wedding gift to Dr. John and Florence Cole Morton from her parents. Dr. Morton left Ridge Farm in 1917, because he was tired of fighting the mud on the streets and roads. Concrete roads replaced the dirt ones the year he left.

Behind the railroad station on the Big Four at Vermillion Grove is the Post Office and store of William Hester and Jonathan Stafford, 1872. Neither believed in the use of tobacco, so they sold peanuts instead. Thus the nickname "Peanut" for the town has stuck through the years.

Frank Pribble, contractor, built many of the fine homes and buildings in Ridge Farm, including the Carnegie Library, present Grade School, Wayne Blakeney's home, Masonic Hall, the house



House built by A. B. Whinrey was the birthplace of Charles, Herbert, Elizabeth and Viola Brown.

where Ralph and Ann Orrick lived (in the concrete steps to the basement are his name "Frank Pribble" and the date "1905"), William Harvey's house (Curly Coe's property), John Foster house across from the Nazarene Church (Mr. and Mrs. Merle Jones). The original Foster home burned on New Years Day, and firemen carried the cook stove out of the house with fire in the grate and the turkey for dinner in the oven.

Other contractors have been E. V. Sisson,



13-room House built in 1867 by Brainerd Coe.  
South of town on Rt. 1, it is the present home  
of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Plog

In memory of William Herron Brown, Lydia Lusk Brown, Salmon H. Brown, Alice Coe Brown, Charles Darwin Brown, Edna Hornada Brown, Charles J. Hornada and Hortense Aylsworth Hornada  
by Viola Brown Henderson, Audrey Brown Stevens and Peggy Brown Rundquist



Warren Webb, Claude Banta, and Boyd Kegley, who probably plastered every house in town at one time or another. James Monroe and now his son, Jimmie, are both well known for their masonry work. Ernest L. Smitley is a contractor in Ridge Farm at present.

T. E. Smith, who platted the east end of town, built and lived in the house just south of the present library. He had a monument shop where Walter Lange later had his garage. Cyrus Kerns was the stone cutter for him.



IRA. G. JONES Home. Picture taken in 1895. Home is now occupied by Bill Kinney



Denver Cary  
Home

One of the oldest homes, still used, is that west of town where the Denver Cary family lives. The walnut floor beams placed on rocks for the foundation of the house are the original ones in the home of William and Anna Mills. When Their daughter Blanch was married to Uz Green, the large crowd present broke through the floor. The house was repaired by Carl Busby who found the walnut beams still in good condition.

Carl, Robert and their sisters, Ruby and Dorothy are grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Mills. Carl now farms the farm.



Built about 1911 and burned in 1928. The site is now occupied by home of Mr. and Mrs. William Brown



Home of Brigadier General Bonner Fellers



Built by John L. Brown next to S. H. Brown.  
Now Paul Honnold and Son Funeral Home

This Page Compliments of  
The Carl Busby Family



### PIONEER FAMILIES OF RIDGE FARM 1905

This picture was taken at the Russell Grace home, now the home of Anna Dice. Seated, left to right: Henry and Anna L. Cole (Mr. Cole a President of First National Bank of Ridge Farm and a landowner west of town), Elizabeth and James Gaines (owners of the famous Gaines home, landowner and cattleman), Rose and Isaac Woodyard (President of City National Bank, large land owner in Edgar County), Jonathan and Lucinda Gaines (Indianola area), Russell and Mary Grace (he was State Representative for years and an Edgar County landowner), Mrs. Osler (mother of Buena Banta and her late husband was a barber here), Miss Maggie Gorman (lived with Mrs. Grace for years), Buena and W. F. Banta (he was grain dealer in Ridge Farm and sold out to National Elevator Co.). Standing at back: Mrs. Maude

Whitson (oldest daughter of Rose and Isaac Woodyard), Pearle and Hallie Grace (daughters of Russell Grace) and Jennie Grace (wife of Roscoe Grace).

Descendants of these families living here now: Cole Morton, (grandson of the Coles, farmed land west of town for 50 years), Harry and James Woodyard (grandsons of Rose and Isaac—James lives here, was Mayor for several years, now affiliated with the County Sheriff's office, Harry is President of the Ridge Farm State Bank and farms in Edgar County), Miss Mary Woodyard (daughter of the Woodyards lives in Ridge Farm), the late Wilbur Dice and Julia Boone (grandson and granddaughter of the Graces), and Terry Banta, present Mayor of Ridge Farm (grandson of the Bantas).

This Page Compliments of  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Cole Morton  
Mrs. Gertrude Cole Hawkins





## RAILROADS THROUGH RIDGE FARM

1873 - 1874

The Chicago, Danville, and Vincennes Railroad was built along the west edge of town in 1873. Later, it was called the Big Four, a part of New York Central, which has since merged with Penn Central. A tax of 3½ cents was levied on citizens here to get the railroad through. Caleb Woodyard, south of town, donated land for the line with the stipulation that his family could ride free anywhere on the line. The rail stop at Woodyard Station was named for him. A round-trip ticket was offered for \$2.75 from Ridge Farm to Chicago.

The Clover Leaf Railroad (later the Nickel Plate) offered a direct route to cities and markets in the East. Their morning and evening passenger trains finally had to cease due to increased travel by auto.

Station Agents and Operator-Levermen to be remembered are: L. C. Osborne, Virgil A.

Goodner, C. D. Harrington, Fisher, Bill Hart, William Raley, Heady, Harry Ewing, Dale Coleman and H. E. Boone.

In 1881, L. W. Hole, agent for the Clover Leaf, received notice his salary was increased. On the same day, an official notice from Washington, D. C., said our Post Office was made a Presidential Office, with another salary increase for Mrs. L. W. Hole, Postmistress.

From 1906 to 1934, the interurban ran every 20 to 50 minutes into Danville with passengers and freight. Seventy-two cars daily came from there and made Ridge Farm the end of their run. The tracks for this electric system ran down the middle of town, turning around in the alley south of the building now used for Hester's Antiques. Sam Spears was for many, many years the ticket and freight agent for the interurban.





Tower at intersection of  
railroads. At left is the  
interior of this tower.

Left to right: Virgil A. Goodner (Operator-Leverman for New York  
Central and Nickel Plate Railroads), Cash Goodner and John Corcoran



Left to right: Lou Hole, Virgil A. Goodner and John Cocoran



Interurban car which used to carry passengers and freight to Danville

"Hack" used to carry passengers to  
and from the Big Four Depot

BELOW, left to right:  
Unknown; John Corcoran,  
Virgil Goodner; Unknown,  
Unknown, Cash Goodner  
Cloverleaf Depot



CLOVERLEAF RAILROAD DEPOT



# Veterans

## CIVIL WAR VETERANS

1861 to 1865

David Dicken, First Commander  
Henry F. Canaday  
Mr. Collier  
Enoch Brady  
William Bishop  
Mr. Folger  
Henry Elliot  
James Fisk  
Solomon Haworth  
Al Henderson  
W. H. Hilyard  
Amos Milholland  
Sampson McCool  
Dr. Guffin  
Capt. Frank J. Pasteur  
Samuel Spears  
Gorden P. Wills

J. F. Banta and Mr. Boaz were the only two escaping in a Kentucky raid. Mr. Banta wrote to relatives in a letter, owned by Mrs. Alfred Goodner, that he shot two sheep, a rooster, found apples and sweet potatoes to feed his company. "If we can't gobble up the Rebs, we'll gobble up their food." He related that his brother, Andrew Banta, serving in the Confederate Army, was captured and later died in a Union Prison Camp at Indianapolis. Harvey Williams, was a Confederate soldier. Mr. Williams was the father of Miss Clyde Williams, a long time school teacher in this community.

A. J. Stevenson fired a cannon in the Civil War and later donated one to Crown Hill Cemetery. G. A. R. Armory gave the Union Block its name. The contents of the Armory building, which were salvaged from the fire of April, 1923, were placed in the Carnegie Library and may be seen there.

## SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

1898

Ted Bishop  
Cyrus Fellers  
Ellis Hall  
Hayes Harris  
Cyrus Kern

# Veterans

## ELWOOD TOWNSHIP SERVICE MEN

### World War I, 1917-1918

Volunteers filled the quota for men; no draft was necessary.

Charles Burr Ankrum  
 Ross Barker Ankrum  
 Thomas M. Baldwin  
 Thomas M. Bedinger  
 Alva H. Baldwin  
 Donald W. Brewer, Musician  
     with U.S. Depot Brigade  
 Earl Busby  
 Roy L. Busby  
 Everett R. Canaday  
 Orville Coate  
 Earl Coe  
 Frank Canaday  
 Willis Canaday  
 Fred Callahan  
 John Callahan  
 Hermas Canaday  
 A. B. Canaday  
 William D. Canaday  
 W. E. Canaday, Medical Corps  
 Golden Ellis  
 Leland Ford  
 Roy Ford  
 Robert Westabrank Curry  
 Bernard Lester Curry  
 Walter Elliot  
 Robert Flawhearty  
 Lon Flawhearty  
 C. Paul Fletcher, First Ridge  
     Farm boy to enlist  
 Charles H. Fletcher  
 Howard O. Fletcher  
 U. Carl Fletcher \* Name of  
     Am. Legion Post  
 William R. Fletcher  
 Benjamin Compton  
 Joseph Charles Cooke

Amos Francis  
 Earl Garrison  
 Albert L. Hadley  
 Vernon A. Hadley  
 Earl Harrier  
 Oscar F. Holaday, Postal Clerk  
 Bugler Emmett Holmes  
 Joseph Hoskins, Friends Recon-  
     struction Unit  
 L. Gurney Haworth  
 Charles C. Hugg  
 Claude A. Johnston  
 Allen John Jones  
 Walter E. Jones  
 Garnet W. Kegley  
 Oscar C. Kegley  
 Herbert Ward Kendall  
 William G. Kendall  
 Roy King \*  
 Grant Larrance \*  
 Harry McCool  
 Otis Fames Milholland  
 Cloyd Pugh  
 Hugar B. Anderson  
 Ray W. Orrick  
 Howard Pugh  
 John P. Sisson  
 Charles Patten  
 Earl Shaffer  
 Ralph P. Mills  
 Charles Marsh  
 Florence Mendenhall, Nurse  
     with A. E. F.  
 Louis Turner  
 James Marsh  
 Fred Turner\*  
 Walter Canaday  
 Lloyd Haworth

Vernon H. Pribble  
 Edward G. Purkiser  
 Archie P. Tuttle  
 James Wasson  
 James B. Wills  
 Louis James Woodyard  
 Lynn Boyd Yelton  
 Arlin E. York  
 Claude H. Porter  
 Walter Dailey  
 Howard Mills  
 William Rex Matthews  
 Charles Bedinger  
 Carl Quick  
 Jessie R. Smith  
 Bonner Fellers  
 Andrew Lake  
 Everett Townsend  
 Dr. S. M. Hubbard  
 Ross Mills  
 Louis Thompson  
 William Johnson  
 Emmett Biggs  
 Gordon Long  
 Howard Van Duyen  
 Cloyd Coonce  
 Newton Kunkle  
 Ed Payne  
 Charlie Lewis  
 Russel Vanneman  
 Floyd Wright  
 Russell Rees  
 Chancey Peterson  
 Charles Merlin Smith  
 Glen Hodges  
 Henry F. Dice, M. C.  
 \* indicates a Gold Star



# SERVICEMEN

This page of our history is dedicated in memory of the young men and women, who gave their lives in the wars, and to those who came back to become a part of Our Community as well as other parts of our Country.

We are indeed grateful for their loyalty and devotion—it will never be forgotten.

The plaque of World War II Service Men placed in the Library also shows the Gold Star service men from that war.



## NEWSPAPERS

Captain Frank Pasteur returned from the Civil War and established the *Ridge Farm Times* in 1887. In 1895 the paper was known as the *Ridge Farm Republican*. It was owned and edited by George W. Gardner. J. E. Glick was editor and publisher in 1909. His brother, Art, worked with him several years, then became editor and publisher for forty years. Bessie McCloud and Louisa Pribble were the reporters for many years. O. F. Miller printed a review of World War I in 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Glick retired from the newspaper about 1950 and are both living at the Shady Rest Nursing Home in Paris, Illinois. Mr. Glick holds a 54-year membership in the American Legion.

Our thanks to Della Mae Arnett for giving us access to the files she kept of issues from 1920 to 1950, while she was working there; and a special thank you to Sherry Thompson and Shirley Thompson for typing the manuscript for this history book.



Exterior view of the Republican office

Art Glick and his brother, J. E. Glick, at work in the plant of the Republican



This Page Compliments of  
Cook Drugs      The Villager      Chrisman, Ill.  
Allerton Supply Co.      Ridge Farm, Illinois

# Services

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Ted Henderson

Starting with volunteers bringing two buckets to carry water and a burlap to fight fires, the earliest fire truck was a manually operated pump-er. Four men rode on each side. The next truck, a Ford, had chemical tanks, soda-acid, mounted on an extended frame. Next was a Chevrolet truck, pumper equipped to draft water from wells or cisterns.

Our present equipment consists of two pumpers, a tank truck, and a first-aid panel truck.

The early volunteer crew about 1924 was H. O. Fletcher, Chief; Ross Ankrum, Sec.-Treas.; Walter Lange, Don Brewer, Mike and Lee Rafferty, McKinley and Ted Henderson, Archie Tuttle, E. Purkhiser, Robert Flaherty, Clyde Brown, and Benny Weaner.

The village formed the Ridge Farm Fire Department in 1930, and the Fire Protection District in 1954, which was headed by Bill Brown. In this way, 521 farms are protected.

In 1873 the three-story building of Abraham Smith was destroyed by fire.

Mrs. Una Pribble describes the fire that burned the implement store of M. A. and Charles Harrold. They had received a new shipment of binder twine and implements prior to harvest. The building and contents were completely destroyed. The heat was so intense it melted the windows of the R. W. Fisk office across the street. They saved only the New York court records. The Illinois court records were destroyed. Also destroyed were Al Henderson's grocery store (where the car wash is), Quinn's Bakery and Cowan's Harness Shop.

Jonah and Rufus Davis' \$11,000.00 mill near the present lumber yard was leveled by fire, as were many of the early homes. \$50,000.00 damage was done by fire April 1, 1923, which was Easter morning. One entire block in the business section was destroyed, which included the Ameri-



Front row, left to right: Golden Ellis, Merlin Smith, Archie Tuttle, Mike Rafferty, Walter Lange, H. A. Fletcher, Fred Thompson, Walter Banta

Back row: Lee Rafferty, Ted Henderson, Miles Canaday, Don Brewer

This Page Compliments of  
Mr. and Mrs. John Land Michael J. and Linda K. Weiss  
STAR MARKET — Ridge Farm, Ill.



can Legion Hall, Perry Wills Shoe Repair, Boyer's Billiard Room, Purkhiser's Clothing, O' Lane Theatre, Smith's Grocery and Dry Goods. Thompson Meat Market, Smith & Smith Feed Store and Truck Office and Paxton's Grab-It-Here No. 4. This was all known as the Union Block because of the original G. A. R. Army.

The gasoline burner under Fred Metheny's coffee urn exploded at the Ridge Farm Cafe (where the drug store now stands). It started the fire in 1932, which gutted the three-story building in that block. This building contained the Modern Woodmen and Royal Neighbors of America lodge halls on the third floor. The fire department, aided by Georgetown, brought the flames under control. Danger signs, painted by John Corcoran, were placed on the barricades in front of the building.

Ted Henderson is a 50-year member of the Ridge Farm Fire Department, and Earl Tuggle served 46 years. James Woodyard is our present fire chief and has served in this capacity for several years.



Fire Station and Equipment

## FIREMEN'S AUXILIARY

By Mrs. Irma Banta

Organizing a Firemen's Auxiliary was first mentioned by the Fire Chief, Earl Tuggle, at the picnic in June, 1956. The Chief appointed a committee of Susie Henderson, Chairman; Mary Jane Latoz and Doris Brown. The committee was to

1. Check other firemen's auxiliaries.
2. Write to the Illinois Firemen's Association
3. Do whatever was necessary to organize a local auxiliary.

After the committee completed their findings, the twenty-three potential members (fire-



Left to right: Hoyle Neubert, Guy Humrichouse, Ernest Smitley, William Brown, Larry Stahl, Richard Land

men's wives and three Trustees' wives) were notified and the first meeting was held at Mrs. Ted Henderson's with ten ladies present. The charter members, were:

Mrs. Ted Henderson	Mrs. Spencer Brown
Mrs. Earl Tuggle	Mrs. Adam Latoz
Mrs. James Loop	Mrs. Carl Busby
Mrs. George Martin	Mrs. Carl Erdmann
Mrs. Ernest Smitley	Mrs. Ed Weir

Officers were elected. Mrs. Ted Henderson, Pres.; Mrs. Ed Weir, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Carl Erdmann, Sec.-Treas.; Mrs. Spencer Brown, Historian.

The auxiliary was formed to help the firemen whenever needed, as for instance:

1. Taking care of refreshment booths.
2. Helping at money-making affairs.
3. To be on hand to serve firemen coffee and food at major fires.

A committee of three is appointed every three months to stand by and alert the others in case of fires.

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month with exceptions in June, July and August. In order to serve coffee and refreshments to the firemen when there is a major fire, coffee, cream, and sugar are kept on hand at the fire station.

The auxiliary has equipped the fire station kitchen with a large coffee pot, cups, silverware, gas stove and an electric roaster. They have also painted the kitchen and put up new curtains.

They have made their money by selling extracts and pepper.

They donated \$50.00 to the Mother's Club Kindergarten, and presented gifts of jelly and other food to the elderly and shut-ins at Christmas. A gift of an electric roaster was given to the Grade School and an electric mixer to the High School.

In memory of Earl Tuggle—by Lenore, Mary Kay, Doug, Kenny and Brent

In memory of Orvall "Pid" Harvey—by Grace and Dick Harvey

In memory of Dwight B. Kelley



## WORLD WAR II and the RED CROSS

Mrs. Frank Carsman

At the time of Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, Carl V. Schermerhorn and Eugene Utterback were with the Armed Forces in the Philippines. Months later, their parents were notified that they were prisoners of war and eventually of their deaths. They were Ridge Farm's first casualties of World War II.

In time, men from our community were in all parts of the world, from Europe to Asia and from the South Pacific to Alaska, on land, sea and air.

During the war years the home front was active distributing ration books. Sugar rationing books were put out the first week in May, 1942, at the Ridge Farm Grade School. Aluminum articles, used fat and tin cans were collected.

Volunteers gave blood through the Red Cross. Surgical dressings—36,200 of them—were made by the Elwood-Love branch at the production center in the basement of the Library. Knitted and sewn garments and comfort kits were filled for the Red Cross by the churches here.

Funds were raised, nutrition, first-aid, and home nursing classes were held.

When Company D of the 130th Infantry of the National Guard left Danville for Camp Forrest, Tennessee, the group included Manford Darnall, Bill Brown, Jim Fletcher, Kenneth Prater, and Charles Hale. Their relatives saw them off in Danville, but, as they went South on the Big Four Railroad, many townspeople went down to the tower or depot to wave them on their way.

During the Korean conflict, Ridge Farm was the first town in the county to be visited by the Red Cross Bloodmobile. On the evening of May 5, 1952, a torch went through our town labeled, "This torch is carrying human blood." It contained 136 pints of blood given by residents of Ridge Farm, Indianola, Georgetown, Sidell and Allerton at the station set up at our high school.

## RIDGE FARM WATER WORKS

Nolin Weathers

An ordinance passed June 3, 1935, created the Department of Waterworks in and for the Village of Ridge Farm; William Henderson, President of the Board; Monroe Ewing, Clerk. Estimated cost was \$53,000; bonds raised \$41,000 for water tower, pump house, one well in Ward Park



Ridge Farm's Water Tower dates from 1935

and all pipes and connections. Later a second well was drilled in the park.

A third well was drilled and pump house and equipment added one mile south of town and County Line Road in 1965.

Maximum daily pumpage is 720,000 gallons. Normal daily use is approximately 80,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated and treated for iron removal.

Storage tanks with approximate capacity of 60,000 gallons serve about 700 users in addition to 44 customers at Vermilion Grove. Four-inch plastic pipes carry the water about five miles to these patrons, who obtained a \$64,000 federal loan for the project. This loan is at 5% interest, to be paid off in 40 years of annual payments of \$3700. The non-profit corporation is headed by Wayne Stephenson, Pres.; Orville Haworth, Vice-Pres.; Don Bergdolt, Sec.-Treas.; and board members Henry Jenner and Don Enos.

An ordinance passed January 29, 1958, authorized and provided for the issuance of \$200,000 in water works and sewers bonds for the purpose of installing a sewer system for the Village of Ridge Farm. Officers of this board are C. D. Brown, Pres., and Russell Weathers, Clerk of

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Baker and Rex R. Baker  
by Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Bowling (Della Mae), Mr. and Mrs. William P. Jones (Maurine), Mrs. Rex  
R. Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Dale C. Baker

the Board. The cost of this installation was \$224,000. There are presently 330 users.

A contract has recently been given for installation of a 30-inch drain tile to carry storm water and treated discharge from the sewer plant north of the village to a stream at Vermilion Grove.

## TELEPHONES

### Mrs. Opal King

Dr. Swaim installed the first telephone line from his home in Humrick to his office in Ridge Farm in 1895. His daughter, Musa, was operator in the office above his drug store.

It was the turn of the century before telephones were used much. W. F. Banta had one of the first phones in his grain office. William Henderson had the first farm telephone.

Charles Stevenson worked for the company from 1917 to 1935, and his son, James, has carried on the work there since 1935.

Manager Charles Stevenson hired Opal King in August 1923 as an operator at the office, which at that time was on the second floor of the Mosier Building. To place a long distance call during this period, one had to go to the telephone office.

The present office was built in 1924; and Mrs. King was the first operator at the new switchboard to answer calls as the cut-over was being made. Ann Ankrum was night operator for many, many years. Others who have worked for the company were Irene Freeman and Hazel Hodges.

In 1937, Mayor Frank Carsman was asked if Ridge Farm would like to be the first to try dial phones, since the contract was signed with Western Electric to change switchboards to dial. In 1938 Opal King was the last operator left at the switchboard to answer calls before the final switch-over as out town was the first in the area to use dialing.

## POST OFFICE HISTORY

### By Oscar Spangler

Benjamin Franklin deserved many unique honors for his activities during the time of the Establishment of this Nation and before that, while the colonies were not yet united. He was commissioned by the King of England to establish a system of Post Roads and Post Offices to promote better means of communication for the early colonists. Because of his outspoken sympathy for the colonists, he became the first Post-

master to be fired for his political affiliations. Upon resuming the same duties and responsibilities under the authority of the colonists, he became the only American ever to head the Postal system under both governments.

Attached is an official list of persons designated by the Post Office Department and later by the United States Postal Service to serve as Postmaster at Ridge Farm, Illinois, together with the dates of their appointment.

Until the first term of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Postmasters were appointed for a definite term. By an official edict, Roosevelt changed that so that Postmasters were appointed without term and could retain the office as long as their services were satisfactory to the Department and to the public they served. Therefore, it would be unfair to evaluate the suitability or efficiency of the Postmasters by the length of time they held the office. Many other things entered into that. Neither is this meant to overlook or to minimize the great help of the staff of people who helped to make the service possible. The Postmasters were those held responsible for the operation of their offices but without the devoted and dedicated efforts of clerks, carriers and mail messengers who braved the weather and adversities, the work could not have been done. An effort was made to learn from the U. S. Postal Service the location of the Post Offices in Ridge Farm, but that could not be obtained in time for publication. Neither was it possible to learn the names of the people who served as clerks or rural carriers down through the long years Postal Service has been afforded the community. We regret that suitable recognition could not be afforded each and every one who worked to make Postal Service possible.



The new Post Office on West West Street. Township building on the right

## CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF POSTMASTERS

Ridge Farm, Vermilion County, Illinois  
Established on May 17, 1841

Postmasters	Appointment Dates Through September 30, 1971
Abraham Smith	May 17, 1841
John C. Dicken	March 11, 1857
James S. Price	December 29, 1857
Samuel Weeks	April 25, 1859
George Cutler	May 18, 1859
David S. Dicken	March 29, 1860
John W. Smith	January 29, 1861
Mrs. Margaret Dice	September 7, 1868
Miss Jane Smith	December 17, 1873
(name changed to Mrs. Jane S. Harrold through marriage on Jan. 25, 1881)	
J. C. Pierce	April 1, 1884
William R. Julian	September 2, 1885
Josephus Baum	January 5, 1888
Lydia B. Pierce	March 28, 1889
Burchard E. Baum	October 19, 1893
Enos C. Kendall	October 22, 1896
Albert S. Fletcher	November 4, 1897
Eva Y. Hole	November 29, 1898
C. F. Cooke	January 12, 1914
Charles E. Baum	March 3, 1915
Ted Henderson	October 1, 1923
Loren H. Newby	August 19, 1935 (con- firmed)
Oscar L. Spangler	September 26, 1939 (acting)
	August 13, 1940 (con- firmed)
Mrs. Helen Coleman	October 17, 1970 (as- sumed charge)
	September 4, 1971 (confirmed)

This office changed from a 4th class Post Office to a Presidential class office shortly before January 9, 1902.

Herman Ellis retired as a rural mail carrier. Merlin Smith also retired as a rural mail carrier. Gerald Brewer was rural carrier at the time of his death. At present John Stanton is rural mail carrier.

## VILLAGE OFFICERS

Following is a list of some of the gentlemen that have served as Mayor of the Village of Ridge Farm since its incorporation:

A. J. Darnall	1874-1875
M. A. Harrold	1875-1876
S. Haworth	1876-1877
A. M. Mills	1877-1878
R. H. Davis	1878-1879
A. A. Sulcer	1879-1880
J. H. Banta	1888-1889
W. H. H. McCloud	1897-1903
William Henderson	1903-1907
Dr. D. C. Hinshaw	1907-1909
E. N. Davie	1909-1913
R. F. Boaz	1913-1915
J. Howard Mills	1915-1917
C. M. Harrold	1917-1927
Golden Ellis	1927-1929
William Henderson	1929-1937
Frank Carsman	1937-1941
E. V. Sisson	1941-1942
Raymond Orrick	1942-1943
C. D. Brown	1943-1961
James Woodyard	1961-1973
R. Terry Banta	1973-



Town Hall

In loving memory of Doyne O. King—by Opal Webb King  
In loving memory of Kenneth R. Guthrie



Some long time members of the Village Board include: Monroe Ewing (28 years as Village Clerk), Nolin Weathers (32 years as Village Treasurer), Doyne King (26½ years as a board member), Harry Brock-Jones, Claude Banta, J. W. Bell, C. O. Spangler, Don Brewer, Russell Weathers, Earl Tuggle, Kenneth Hawkins and Wally Deck. C. D. "Charlie" Brown was honored in 1961 for his civic work and 27 years as a board member, 18 of which he served as Mayor.

The present Village Officers include: Terry Banta, Mayor; Wallace Deck, Fred Coleman, Mark Blakeney, Robert Bell, Joe Goodner and Jim Honnold. Nolin Weathers is the Treasurer and Mrs. Judy Larson is Village Clerk. The Village

retains Harry Steward as their Attorney and Dale Francis is the Village Engineer. Policemen are Norman Mills, Joel Hollingsworth, Paul Kincaid, and Charles Gallagher.

The first policeman, 1897, was J. W. Myers, who lived across from the lumber yard. The Calaboose on West West (Main) Street, by the present Post Office, was replaced between 1909 and 1912, built of bricks used from the old brick walks. Enoch Brady served as policeman for several years and Charles Lester served in this capacity for 30 years. Ward Gannon and George Conklin held this office for long terms. They were followed by Richard Jackson, Don Hackler, Larry Stahl, Bill Baird, and Stanley Richardson.

1892 Nov. 29th This Day appeared W. W. Peck and made affidavit that one sheep owned by him was killed on 23d of Nov. and that said sheep was killed by unknown Dogs to affaint and that he has had no compensation from the Owners of Said Dogs or any other Person for his Damages. Sustained whereupon the testimony of Sayfayett Coe & W E Townsend Two freeholders was herd as to the Number and Value the Number was one and that the Value was \$10.00 Ten Dollars it is there fore the Judgment of the Court that he have Judgment for \$10 (ten Dollars for Damages Sustained by Dog Not his own and unknown to him and unknown to him in the town Elwood and that he is Entitled to Compensation in the amount \$10.00 (Ten Dollars as Provided by law

Monroe Pugh  
J.P. (Seal)

1891 Thomas H. Brown  
to  
Nancy J. Brown

One light Iron gray mare about five years Old Named Topsy One light Bay Mare about four years Old Named Moll. Oone Red and White Spotted cow about ten years Old named lottie. One Red Brindle Calf yearling One Lumber Wagon and Set of double Harness One Breaking Plow House Hold and Kitchen furniture. To Secure the Payment of one Certain Promisary Note of Four Hundred dollars due Two years from date with Six Per Cent Interest.

I do here by Certify that the above Mortgage was duly acknowledge be fore me this Twenty-third day of June 1891

Monroe Pugh  
J.P.

1891 Thomas H. Brown  
to  
Nancy J. Brown

One light Iron gray mare about five years Old Named Topsy One light Bay Mare about four years Old Named Moll. Oone Red and White Spotted cow about ten years Old named lottie. One Red Brindle Calf yearling One Lumber Wagon and Set of double Harness One Breaking Plow House Hold and Kitchen furniture. To Secure the Payment of one Certain Promisary Note of Four Hundred dollars due Two years from date with Six Per Cent Interest.

I do here by Certify that the above Mortgage was duly acknowledge be fore me this Twenty-third day of June 1891

Monroe Pugh  
J.P.

In memory of Marie F. Weathers, James Russell Weathers, Tolbert and Emma Weathers and Elvis Weathers  
by Nolin Weathers



# Schools

A log school house with puncheon floor, greased paper for window panes, slabs for seats, a crude fireplace, wooden pegs for hangers, in 1824 was not only the first school in Elwood Township, but also the first in Vermilion County. For writing, a long board with the proper pitch and a bench under the window; quill pens from the family geese, all helped Reuben Black teach fourteen pupils in this subscription school. Elisha Hobbs followed in 1831 as teacher.

The first settlers at Vermilion Grove built their school one and a quarter miles west of Route 1. Vermilion Seminary, in a two-room building, followed in 1850, with 110 students.

Bethel's first school was also built of logs soon after the village was established in 1848. Vera Pugh recalls that her grandmother Hester was one of the first teachers. She taught a spring and summer term for which she received \$30 and with her first pay check she bought a walnut chest of drawers, which Mrs. Pugh has. Three school

houses were built in succession and the last one closed in 1942 to consolidate with Ridge Farm.

James Fletcher tells about the grove of locust trees around the Locust Corner school yard. The well was pumped by a windmill, and the large horse trough at the well was a favorite watering place for all who traveled by the school. He also tells of the gypsy bands that came every spring and camped in the grove of locust trees. Jim says that he is still plowing up bricks from the foundation of Locust Corner School. The school was located on the southwest corner at the turn to the Harrison Purchase Monument.

Locust Corner was built in 1862 and was replaced in 1913 by Harrison, two miles east of Ridge Farm, now a part of the new Unit No. 9 District. The first board of directors for this early school included James Banta, Erasmus Folger, Ira Jones, James Whitlock, Uriah Folger, and Zira Castle. An old record lists their visits to the school. Also listed are names of local men who



RIDGE FARM HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1906

Back Row: Corrill Julian, Frank Fletcher, Clifford Skinner, Jos Cooke, Unknown; Middle Row: Lina Watson, Flo Tirpin, Nelle McQuillin, Fred Hester, Charley Brown, Fred Smith, Everette Townsend, Johnnie Graham-Teacher  
Seated: Besse Patterson, Vessie Hathaway, Vera Fisk, Floy Henderson, Mary Woodyard, Corriane Julian, Minnie Smith, Lola Baker, Inez Myers, Lilliam Pierce, Amy Creators

were paid to help on construction of the building by "getting out timber and hauling timber from over the river." Lumber cost \$14 per 1,000 ft., and 43 pounds of nails were 5¢ per pound.

As to teachers, Rachel Ellis was paid \$48 for three months' teaching in 1863. Pleasant Mendenhall received \$100 for four months. Martha Reese, Lucy Castle, Aletha Walthall gave "pretty good satisfaction." Some comments were less favorable. One was dismissed "for not giving satisfaction." One was labeled "tolerably good" and another "nothing to brag about." Board members visited school often.

Enrollment in 1866 was three boys and nine girls. A vote for more than six months school was turned down by the Board, 6 to 1.

In 1901 the school was rebuilt for \$412.00. When women were allowed to vote in 1911, they elected Effie Ellis to serve, the first woman board member.

Ridge Farm's first school was built in 1869 on land deeded from Thomas Haworth. It was a two-story frame building, one room to each floor, with no stairway. The pupils' chief hobby was to climb through the rafters to the second floor. The teacher's desk was on a raised platform in

front of the students with hand bells to use at recess and starting time. A large water bucket and dipper was used during school hours, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., with one and one half hours at noon.

Fairly good maps, tablets made of wrapping paper and foolscap paper were furnished for examinations. Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic and Writing were taught in the open class room (now being introduced again).

Pupils lined up with their toes on a certain board and spelled orally. Prizes were given to the one getting to the head of the line the most times for correct spelling. The McGuffey Reader was used.

Among the first teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Perry Haworth, Alice Davis, Jennie Fisher, Alice Julian, L. B. Coggeshall and his wife, Grace.

Needing more space, a new school was built in 1875. It was a large and well-apportioned building made of brick. It was also well arranged and neatly furnished. This building was built directly east of the old frame building. The school was graded, had four departments with one teacher for each department. W. H. Chamberlain was the principal, and is credited with establishing the graded school system here. Miss Florence Newlin



ANOTHER OF RIDGE FARM'S EARLY CLASSES

Fourth Row (Back Row): Harry Ankrum, Cecil Roark, Marion Fellers, Ross Ankrum, Larrence Bratton, Mckinley Henderson, Harley Cook, Gordon Kendall, Algert Hedley, Fon Wright-Teacher Third Row: Mabel Fletcher, Ethel Baum, Vernon Hadley, Russel Banta, Roy Ankrum, Earl Wright, John Price, Nell Bell, Ethel Short, Nora Wills, Effie Newline, Hazel Bratton, Gertie Nier, Helen Banta, Ethel Patterson, Verna Peck, Nettie Duff, Bessie Henderson Front Row: Esther Watson, Opal Baldwin, Nellie Dailey, Hessie Fletcher, Cecil Cook, June Kendell, Lafern Blair, Minnie Yelton, Helen Kendall, Lavern Burgan, Vera Hester



Picture taken in the spring of 1888. Virgil Goodner is in the picture.  
He was seven at the time.

was in charge of the grammar, Mrs. May Lane the intermediate, and Miss Whitlock the primary. The school was in charge of a board of directors consisting of R. H. Davis, President; W. N. Barklay, and A. J. Darnall, Secretary.

At the first high school graduation in 1885, Harry Ankrum and Belle Newlin graduated. The latter was elected president of the first Alumni group in 1903.

The building that was erected in 1875 had to make way for a new one in 1910, when once again more space was needed. It, too, was built directly east of the building being destroyed. The board members in 1910 were J. M. Kendall, President; R. W. Fisk, Secretary; Isaac Woodyard, W. F. Banta, L. W. Coe, F. C. Perry and A. V. Schermerhorn. The high school continued in this building until the new high school was built in 1924. This same building is still being used today, with some additions, for the elementary school grades three through eight. Kindergarten, first and second grades are housed in the Harrison school building.

Ridge Farm gym, in the early 1900's, was in the Union Block. Florence Tuttle Smith recalls going on the interurban to games at the Vermilion Academy. In 1913 Ted Henderson and Carl

Fletcher won the Eastern Illinois Track Meet with a total of 18 points. The prize was \$25.00 for Ridge Farm High School. Bonner Fellers and others helped in the County Meet and other local meets. In 1913 a spring election was held to organize a Township High School District. The territory to be taken in was nine miles long and five miles wide.

Our football team beat Danville 81-0 in 1915. This team was coached by Allen Lancaster. One of the participants of this game was Merlin Smith. Merlin is a retired mail carrier and lives with his wife, Martha, on East West Street.

The first *Totem* was published in 1917.

The Masonic Lodge laid the cornerstone for the present High School building in 1924. Board members were Charles Harrold, E. V. Schermerhorn, W. F. Banta, E. E. Henthorn, J. E. Castle, A. M. Larrance, and Lois Hinshaw.

In the lower hall at the Grade School is a flag that was received in 1926, when the school participated in the Educational Parade celebrating Vermilion County Centennial. This silk flag was placed in a frame, glass enclosed. It survived the raging fire of 1973 and had only a water mark as damage. The flag's place of honor was only a few feet from the main source of the fire.





1. Horland Hester 2. Warren Banta,
3. Keith Foster 4. Merlin Smith
5. Goldin Ellis 6. Cloyd Pugh
7. Wheeler Baity 8. Carl Quick
10. Perl Reese 11. Earl Busby
12. Vernon Pribble 14. Manon Wills
15. Harry Patten 16. Glen Hodges
17. Walter Jones 18. Boyd Yelton
21. John Baker 22. Roy Busby
24. L. Tohill 25. Allen Lancaster

PRIDE OF RIDGE FARM  
FOOTBALL TEAM

Charles Newman announced in 1941 that our grade school was the first in the county to receive Superior rating.

In 1964, Richard Weller, principal, announced 103 students were enrolled by consolidation with the Vermilion Grove Grade School.

A private kindergarten was held in the library basement for 8 years, with Mildred Callahan, teacher. Since becoming part of the State School program, it convenes at Harrison School.

Dee Weir has been Grade School cook for 27

years and Addie Fulton also served a number of years at the Grade School. Dorothy Loop and John Howald served as cooks many years at the High School. James Loop and Ernest Baker were long time custodians, as were: Bill Crispin, Nate Johnson, Claude Banta, Fred Ellis, and Earl Tuggle.

In August, 1970, Harrison Grade, Ridge Farm Grade, and Ridge Farm High Schools formed a Unit District. It is now known as Ridge Farm Community Unit School District No. 9.



RIDGE FARM HIGH SCHOOL TODAY



Following a fire in March, 1973, the Grade School held classes at the Friends Church, Church of Christ, Carnegie Library, and the Lions Club building. After about 10 months and \$140,000 in repair work, school was resumed in the building. This building now has lowered ceilings, better lighting, an intercom system, modernized kitchen and bright colors in each class room.

Following is a list of a few of the local citizens that have served as school board members for a number of years: Sam Rafferty, Margaret Bines, Nolin Weathers (35 years), Cole Morton, Dale Mills, Walter Smith, Herbert Brown, Ellis Canaday, Richard Ellis, Harlan Hester, John Land, Lucille Woodyard and Myrtle Hubbard.

Long time teachers in our school systems have been: At Vermilion Grove—Anna Rees, Vera Walthall, and Marie Henderson. At Harrison—Mrs. Hill and Goldie Hodges. At Ridge Farm—Mrs. Frank Fellers, Nelle Barrick, Clyde Williams, Viola Henderson, Lydia Hadley Busby, Rosaline Fuller-

ton, Viola Coe, Russell Guin, Mabelle Jackson Dice, H. E. Jones, Juby and Margaret Parke, Esther Brown, John Land, Magdalene Drollinger Jones, Beth McCrory Carsman, Georgia Payne, George Clements, Paul Beauchamp, Nellie Cook, Bernice Matthews, Mrs. Lund, Mrs. Kvasnika, Carroll Baird, and Pat Castle.

Other school employees with long service records are: Custodians—Harland Henderson, Richard Jackson and Wilbur Scarlett. Ethel Coleman is Unit No. 9 Bookkeeper, Gertrude Gardner is Treasurer, and Carolyn Ehlenfeld, High School Secretary.

Our school system is presently guided by three administrators, namely: Leroy Durand, Superintendent; Donald Bergdolt, High School Principal; and John VanVoorhis, Elementary Principal.

School Board Members in 1973-1974 are: Stella G. Darnall, President; Frank Haase, Secretary; Joel Hollingsworth, Dale Lierman, Elmer Miller, Ernest Smitley, and Faustyn Thompson.



GRADE SCHOOL—Built in 1875, the last class was 1911.

In memory of John L. Brown and Lela Baum Brown  
William H. Brown and Lydia Lusk Brown  
Josephus Baum and Sarah Beall Baum  
by Lydia Brown Busby



The new school standing over the rubble of the old 1911



GRADE SCHOOL with new gym and portable classrooms at left

In memory of Bert O. Callahan

VERMILION ACADEMY  
Class of 1892 Commence-  
ment Program

CLASS '92,  
Vermilion Academy

LEADING  
E. H. H.

From  
June 20th

1892.

## CLASS + ROLL



VICTOR H. ELLIS.

ELLA CANADAY.

ROBERT HESTER.

MINNIE C. HENDERSON.

EFFIE MAY HAWKINS.

HERMAN J HOLLINGSWORTH.

EDWIN P. HAWORTH.

LILLIAN MYRTLE PRICE.

HOWARD J. ELLIOTT.



## CONTEST

—OF—

A and B Divisions of The Athenaeum

—OF—

VERMILION ACADEMY,

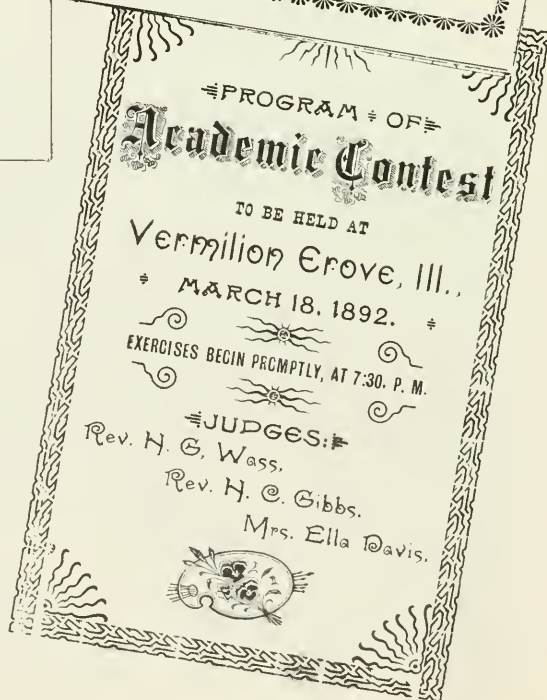
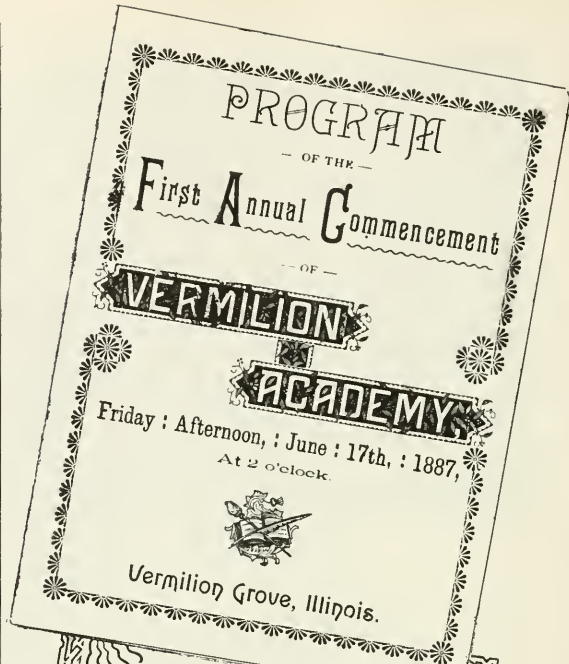
—TO BE HELD—

The Evenings of March 24th and 26th, 1887.

VERMILION GROVE, ILL.

—  
"Vincit, Qui Se Vincit."  
—

Exercises begin at 7.30 o'clock.



A variety of programs from Vermilion Academy



# THE VERMILIONITE.

VOL. 1.

VERMILION GROVE, ILL. APRIL 15, 1901.

NO. 7

## Alumni Greeting.

'Tis a time to us most cheering  
When we meet our schoolmates dear,  
At Commencement and Alumni  
Which occurs but once a year.

Time of greeting and of telling  
Of the work that we have done,  
How we labor on and prosper  
With the work we have begun.

There's a notion in our country  
That the best is easy gained,  
But the heights to great men given  
By great efforts were attained.

Greatest blessings may attend us,  
If great efforts have been made;  
Greatest failures will o'ertake us,  
If our duty's lightly weighed.

What our influence in this country  
No one can exactly tell,  
But we know the Alumni members  
Are succeeding fairly well.

Forty teachers, four are preachers,  
Seven are trying the farms to till.  
Three are lawyers, one's a poet,  
Four are doctors of the ill.

To the Class of Nineteen Hundred  
We extend a hearty hand,  
Trusting you will find your places  
In our quiet Alumni band.

As the years are rolling passed us,  
Let us ever loyal be  
To our school, our Alma Mater,  
Till the year of Jubilee.

BERTRAM REES, '90.

Vermilion Grove, Ill., June 10th, 1900.



# Library

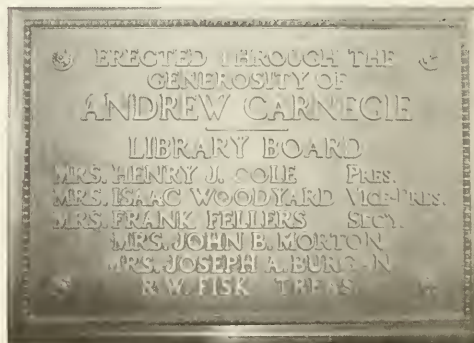
Ridge Farm, a small town of less than 1200 people, is the smallest town in the United States to have a Carnegie Library. In a town of this size it was almost beyond hope to have a library, but through the visions of an early Chautauqua group this dream was realized.

The first library was started by an organization known as The Chautaugua Literary Scientific Circle. The class was organized in 1882 and was the backbone of literary undertakings which formed a private library in 1904. One hundred books they bought and collected were placed in the back part of W. R. Julian's store for circulation. Then later they moved to the rear of the Monroe Ewing Book and Jewelry Store. Book rental was five cents per book for two weeks. Ewing's store was located between what is now the Sundries Store and Hawkins Market.

Seeing the need for more space, Mrs. Anna C. Cole wrote to Andrew Carnegie for a donation of \$6,000. When he learned the people had levied

a tax to support the institution, he donated \$9,000. The building was completed in 1910 at a cost of \$12,000.

On May 25, 1909, the board purchased the lot on North State Street from T. E. Smith for



THE PLAQUE IN THE LIBRARY



DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIBRARY

\$563. More property was added in 1929 with a \$200 purchase from Willard Townsend.

Members of the first board of trustees were: Anna C. Cole, Florence Cole Morton, R. W. Fisk, Gertrude Burgan, Rosa Woodyard, and Florence Fellers. Many faithful, intelligent persons since have served on the Elwood Township Library Board without remuneration.

Librarians serving over the years were: Mrs. Florence Newlin Carmack, 24 years; Mrs. Esther Sisson Ensor, 26 years; and present librarian, Mrs. Mary Conklin Evans.

The library observed its fifty years service to the community with Brigadier General Bonner

Fellers, Ridge Farm native, being the guest speaker. He was the son of Mrs. Florence Fellers, member of the original library board.

In 1966 the library was accepted as one of the charter members of the Lincoln Trails State Library System. Extensive redecorating was done in 1970-71, with painting, new draperies, and wall-to-wall carpeting.

The library, used as a Centennial Emblem, stands as a landmark in the community, thus fulfilling a dream of literary minded women.

—Mildred Dillman, Hortense Jones, and Faustine Hawkins

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Yontz, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. S. Warner Yontz, Jr.,  
who established S. W. Yontz & Sons on February 15, 1910

# Later Businesses



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

## FARMERS STATE BANK

The village of Ridge Farm did not have a bank until November 22, 1892. The Farmers State Bank was incorporated on that date, in this county by B. U. Gordon, Cashier. The bank was capitalized for \$30,000.00. The following were the shareholders of the bank:

C. F. Cooke	10 Shares	Zimri Dwiggins	45 Shares
A. P. Saunders	24 Shares	W. H. Starbuck	42 Shares
A. W. Mills	10 Shares	J. M. Starbuck	45 Shares
S. H. Brown	10 Shares	F. C. Hester	10 Shares
Polly Patterson	20 Shares	A. C. Hester	4 Shares
B. U. Gordon	40 Shares	John W. McGee	10 Shares
Josiah Thompson	20 Shares	J. G. Clark	10 Shares

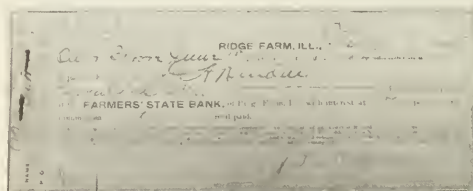
On April 3, 1900, there was a transfer of stock and the First National Bank was incorporated with a Capital Stock of \$50,000.00.

Officers of this bank were: Danny Mills, Teller; Charles Harrold, Vice-President; H. G. Barker, Cashier; and Henry J. Cole, President.

Henry J. Cole was President of the bank until his death in June 1913. There was quite a change in the directors of the bank through the

years. Some of the men who come to mind are Thomas Rees, who was President for many years; Pleasant Mills, Elizabeth Gaines, Ralph Mills, Walter Pittilo, and J. Cole Morton. Joseph G. Cannon acquired 101 shares of the bank stock at the time of the changeover, and held the stock until the bank closed.

There was a ten-dollar bill issued in the 1929 series bearing the title of "The First National Bank of RIDGE FARM" and showing the signature of H. G. Barker, Cashier, and Thomas H. Rees, President.



A Note Payable to an Early Bank

This Page Compliments of  
Ridge Farm State Bank  
Every Banking Service Ridge Farm, Ill.



## CITY NATIONAL BANK

The City National Bank was incorporated and authorized to start transacting business March 6, 1907. The organizer was Isaac Woodyard, a wealthy farmer who lived in Ridge Farm, but farmed in Edgar County. The first bank location was the building just north of the present Adam Latoz Hardware Store. After the closing of the Bedinger Dry Goods Store, the bank moved over into that building, which is the lower floor of the Masonic building.

Isaac Woodyard was President and placed two nephews, John W. Foster as Cashier, and Thomas Foster as teller. Later Arthur Dice came in as a Teller. The Directors of this new bank were:

H. C. Woodyard	10 Shares	W. F. Banta	10 Shares
J. C. Kendall	10 Shares	J. M. Kendall	10 Shares
C. F. Cooke	10 Shares	Isaac Woodyard	50 Shares
A. P. Saunders	10 Shares	J. W. Foster	23 Shares
Dr. D. C. Hinshaw	10 Shares	Geo. E. Robertson	70 Shares

The bank was capitalized for \$25,000.00. Later the Ridge Farm Building & Loan Association was organized, and it carried on its business in this bank, with John W. Foster, as Secretary. Nolin Weathers, Charles F. Cooke, Dr. J. B. Morton and others were directors of this organization.

This institution was a great booster in helping people finance homes in the community.

John W. Foster was President of the Cemetery Board for many years, and looked after the business of the cemetery from his office in the bank.

W. F. Banta and Robert Banta maintained an office in the rear of the bank building for several years, where they traded in grain on the Chicago Board of Trade.

The two banks carried on and prospered until the drop in land and farm prices following World War I in 1921. The 1920's were a difficult period for agricultural communities. Then came the Stock Market crash of 1929, followed by the depression of the early 30's. Corn was priced at 10¢ per bushel in December, 1932, following the largest crop of excellent quality corn ever produced in this area.

Ervin Castle, a well-to-do farmer, and others burned corn in their furnaces for fuel that winter. Many local farmers incurred debt during the 20's, and with the coming of the depression in the early 30's, they were in desperate straits.

After the inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt as President of the United States, a bank moratorium was declared on March 4, 1933, which closed both of our Ridge Farm Banks.



CITY NATIONAL BANK

This Page Compliments of  
 Paul "Cubby" Lisick Appliances 132-34 N. State St. Westville, Illinois  
 Bill Young Republican Candidate for Congress  
 Your support will be appreciated

The First National Bank was placed in Receivership under William L. Below of Danville. The City National Bank was liquidated by John W. Foster, without a receivership.

It might be interesting to note that the total deposits of the First National Bank at the closing date were \$33,000.00. The total deposits of City National Bank were \$43,000.00. The City National had the school funds, as John Foster was the school Treasurer.

Closing the banks was a terrible blow to our community. People had to go to other towns to get checks cashed and money exchanged. This resulted in them doing their buying in these towns.

A money exchange was started in a couple of years. This was carried on by Arthur Dice, using the First National Bank building.

Then came the newly organized present bank in 1945.

### RIDGE FARM STATE BANK

The Ridge Farm community had been without a bank for over thirteen years; hostilities had ended in Europe and people were thinking in terms of post-war plans. It was on May 21, 1945,

that an application for permission to organize the Ridge Farm State Bank was filed with Arthur C. Lueder, Auditor of Public Accounts, by Frank Carsman, Lewis J. Woodyard, J. C. Pierce, E. M. Schermerhorn, John W. Foster, D. O. King and C. D. Harrington. This application had to be filed a second time because the name of our town had been sent in as "Ridgefarm" instead of "Ridge Farm," the correct legal spelling. On July 17, 1945, a permit to organize the new bank was received from the Auditor. Books of subscription to the Capital Stock of the Ridge Farm State Bank, in the amount of \$25,000, were opened. By July 30, 1945, the stock was fully subscribed to by sixty-six interested individuals.

The present building at the corner of State and Owen Streets, formerly occupied by the First National Bank and, after that, the office of the late Dr. S. M. Hubbard, was secured for the location of the new bank.

On August 6, 1945, the subscribers to the stock met in the basement of the Federated Church (now known as the Ridge Farm United Methodist Church), at 8:00 o'clock P.M. to determine the number of directors as well as to elect the original Board. Those elected were Frank Carsman, Lewis J. Woodyard, Joe Pugh, Harland



STATE BANK—This building also housed Farmer's State Bank and First National Bank

This Page Compliments of  
**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**  
Danville, Illinois 61832  
Member F D I C

Hester, D. W. Brewer, Robert F. Busby, Carl G. Bauer, Dr. H. F. Dice and John W. Foster.

The first officers and employees were Frank Carsman, President; Joe Pugh, Vice-President; Carl G. Bauer, Vice-President and Cashier and Lois Miller Ellis, stenographer and bookkeeper.

The Ridge Farm State Bank opened for business September 28, 1945.

Following the deaths of Dr. H. F. Dice and John W. Foster, the number of directors on the Board was officially decreased to seven. During those first years, the directors served without pay with the exception of the President of the Board. He was paid an annual salary of \$12.00. In April, 1952, the Bank began to pay 1% interest on savings deposits.

1953 was an eventful year! The bank was robbed August 25, 1953, and again on November 12 of the same year. The second time, the man was caught and later sentenced to prison for the offense. It was at this time the bank started closing every day during the noon hour.

In June, 1960, the interest paid on savings was increased to 3%; in January, 1965, to 4%; and as of June, 1973, raised to 5%. The first certificates of deposit were issued December, 1967, at 5% interest on a minimum of \$5,000 or multiples of that amount.

The total assets and liabilities of the bank first reached the million dollar mark during January, 1957; the second million was hit October, 1968; and the third million was achieved Novem-

ber, 1973. As of January 31, 1974, the total assets and liabilities were \$3,593,689.79.

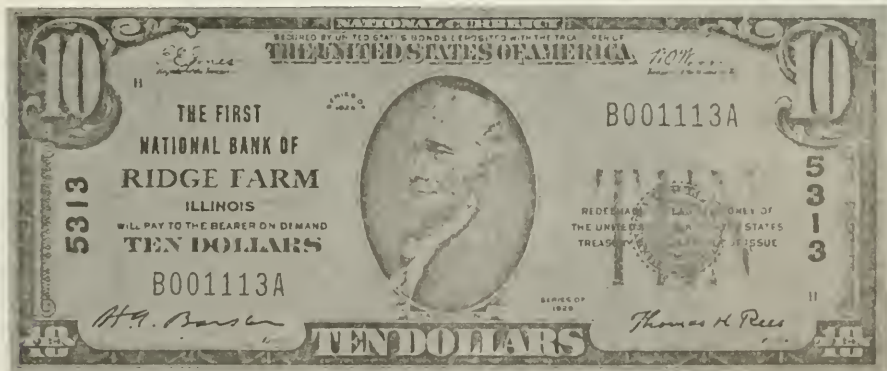
Frank Carsman, the first President of the bank, served in that capacity until 1956, when he was succeeded by Harland Hester, who served until his death in 1968. Harry Woodyard was elected President and Chairman of the Board at the Annual Stockholders Meeting held January, 1969.

During the year of 1972, the bank acquired additional real estate located directly north of the United Methodist Church parking lot, and running to the alley. Possibilities for this property would be expansion of the bank's facilities.

The bank now has forty-seven stockholders, six of whom are original subscribers. In June, 1966, a new stock issue of 250 shares was completely subscribed to, and this action increased the Capital Stock to \$50,000.

The present Board of Directors of the Ridge Farm State Bank are Harry W. Woodyard, Chairman; Carl Busby, Arnold B. Coggeshall, Sr., Rachel J. Davenport, John M. Land, Bill B. Mainord and James Woodyard.

Officers and employees are Harry W. Woodyard, President; Rachel J. Davenport, Executive Vice-President and Cashier; John M. Land, Vice-President; June Smitley, Assistant Cashier; Jerry L. Young, Assistant Cashier; Mary L. Jones, Teller; Linda L. Moore, Teller; Carla G. Young, Bookkeeper; James Woodyard, Security Officer and Logan A. Williams, Janitor.



First National Bank of Ridge Farm Ten Dollar Bill

In Memory of James Woodyard  
Who Passed Away on April 17, 1974  
By the Woodyard Family



STREET SCENES





THE CHANGING APPEARANCE OF RIDGE FARM'S BUSINESS SECTION





## Union Block Fire





## Easter Sunday, 1923





This Page Compliments of  
A. I. Newlin Plumbing and Heating Ridge Farm, Ill.  
Albert and Nina Newlin

John W. Humrichous — Real Estate — Georgetown, Ill. 662-6579

Glen-Mar Beauty Shoppe — Glen Williams, Owner



# Ridge Farming



A Wheat Field at Harvest Time

When the first settlers came, they found the luxuriant grass high enough to tie over the horses' withers and hide them from view. The land was marked out with a bar shear plow. Squaws showed them how they made holes four feet apart and planted the corn with a fish or crawfish for fertilizer. The children dropped the corn and covered it with a hoe. It was often eaten by sandhill cranes, ducks, geese and prairie chickens.

The corn was stored in pits which had been dug in the ground if it were needed for feed. Any surplus left to sell was hauled to Eugene and Perrysville and put on boats to go to the market in the East.

A better market was available when the railroads were built in 1872-74.

Much of the wool was used, also. Any extra was shipped to Philadelphia; 500 sheep would break the market in Chicago. John Cole had a flock of 2,000 during the Civil War.

George W. Smith sold a cow to George Gehart for \$9. Pork brought \$1.50 per 100 lbs. in Chicago. Henry Mills bought a horse in exchange for 110 days' work.

William H. Brown and John H. Brown farmed near Pilot Grove; George W. Smith at Olivet. William M. Bines, with his Uncle John Bines, settled west of Ridge Farm. All of them settled before the Civil War.

Beckwith's 1897 History explains "Elwood land drains into Little Vermilion River, being

685 feet above sea level. Indeed, the farmers here are very fortunate in the general quality of their land, deep and rich, and few are found who can reasonably complain."

Soon some farmers built houses in Ridge Farm and drove out to oversee their help. John Brown left orders for the day on a shingle in his barn.

By 1893, threshing rigs went from farm to farm. Porter Binkley threshed right in the village. His son, Dane, remembers that as a child he tried to keep pace working with his father and Sam Fulton. Ira Jones, W. N. Bines, Nathan Hale, Orville Cox, Til York, and C. W. Busby's did custom work. Ted Henderson remembers being water boy and the excitement of being part of the crew. Three elevators at Ridge Farm and one at Vermilion Grove operated by Everett Smith are now diminished to one. That is the B. C. Christopher Grain Co. in Ridge Farm.

Curt Jones purchased from Frank Jones an elevator that stood on the south side of the Ridge Farm-Indianola road and immediately west of the Big Four tracks. Harry Brock-Jones operated an elevator at the site of the Cone & Cup Drive-in. W. F. Banta built a large feed and grain business at the present elevator site. It was handy for the teams of horses to drink at the trough by the town pump. Sam Fulton, Tom Fulton and Minor Sisson helped at the elevator, each for more than 20 years.



Threshing—1926



Putting up hay on Porter Binkley's farm



Setting up shocks—1926



First Graders enjoy a fun trip to the farm

This Page Compliments of  
Dane and Eula Binkley

Richard and Joyce Binkley, Dana, Bradley and Beth Ellen  
David and "Sandy" Creek, Davey, Andy and Amy



COOPERATION IN BUSINESS: Railroads serving the agricultural community. The elevator in the background is on site now occupied by the B. C. Christofer Grain Company.

Many of the early farmers divided their land among their children and provided a "good 100 acres for their living." Now, of course, acreage per farm unit may be 1,000 acres or more. Efficient machinery is a huge investment.

During World War II, tomatoes were used to make V-8, a juice of eight vegetables on which service men could survive. This soil was adaptable and acreage peaked at 900 acres. The high profit

crop depleted the soil, disease set in, the need lessened after the war, and production stopped.

Coate's Apple Orchard started in 1916, when Eber Coate planted 50 trees. Now his son, Dennis, produces 15,000 to 20,000 bushels in a normal year from 40 acres. His apples rated first in the State in 1971 and graded 99.89 in 1958.

Centennial farms were recognized in 1973 as those, who, through abstracts and deeds, were able to prove the land had been in the same family for 100 years. They were awarded plaques which stand in front of their homes. In this township the farm owners recognized were Mrs. Lena Gibbs, Mrs. Dale Mills and son Eugene, Robert and Betty Pugh, Paul Willison and Mabel Ellis.

Joe Pugh was the first farmer in this county to plant hybrid seed corn and to buy the first fertilizer. Now Funk's International Seeds, Inc. produces seed for processing on approximately 2,000 acres in the Ridge Farm area. Under the direction of Fred Coleman, the seed is grown here and processed at the plant in Rockville, Indiana. During the summer 1,000 to 1,500 boys and girls are employed in detasseling. This brings additional income to the young people and to the growers.

Golden Ellis was one of the first dealers to



Tomato weigh station

This Page Compliments of  
Coate Orchard  
Dennis, Norma and Phillip Coate  
Billie Zenke and Family Tom Brim



deliver gas to farmers and kerosene to homes in town for lamps and stoves. Dell Smith and Bill Lowe followed him as Sinclair dealers. "Pop" Spangler came in the depression of 1930 to replace Orlin York as Standard Oil Agent. The bulk plant was west of the present Allerton Supply Co. The smallest agency and the depression forced Spangler to drive a different route each day to service farmers. Sales might be only 30 or 40 gallons of kerosene for the day. Electric lights



Allerton Supply Company fertilizer plant

were turned off, telephones few and far between. If a truck broke down in the country, it was quicker to hitch-hike or walk back to get repairs or a mechanic than to try to find a telephone for help. Marathon bulk station is now at Vermilion Grove. John Jackson and Joe Hollingsworth are dealers. Ezra Rhoton has a Marathon Station, and Jean Weiss a Standard Station at present.

Allerton Supply Co., Larry Stahl, manager, was purchased from G & R Supply Co. G & R Supply was managed several years by the late Sanford Richardson. The Allen Bros., owners of Allerton Supply Co., have 30 anhydrous tanks, 12 farm owned, one Big A for custom application and 8 spreader buggies.



Elevator operated by Harry Brock-Jones  
Present site of Cone-Cup Drive-In



B. C. Christopher Grain Company

Another modern day service for local farmers is provided by Alvin "Sonny" Neubert. He spreads limestone and phosphate as well as owning and operating a spraying machine that is used in weed control.

Ridge Farm Feed Mill was started about 1930 by Milo Newlin. It was later owned and operated by Irvin Kern, followed by Clifford Finchum. Mercer Brown bought it 25 years ago, and his son, David, is now a partner. Their modern convenient system with a delivery truck serves a large area. From one concentrate in the feed, there has been a terrific change in structure, additives and medicine.

Al Rigdon for many years did custom baling. After his death, his son, Roy, continued the business and for many years sold straw and hay all over this part of the State. Milo Newlin did custom baling with an old horse power stationary baler and also ran a coal yard for many years. Roy Rigdon had one of the first pick-up balers in this community. Before the advent of the big truck, hay and straw were loaded in box cars at Woodyard Station and then were shipped to paper mills and feed lots.

The abundance of sugar maple trees led to the making of Maple syrup for sale. Roy Whitlock and son, "Ike," are known far and wide for their fine syrup. Other sugar camps were run by Frank Busby's, Ben Payne, Carl and Louise Mills, and Wilbur and Mary Scarlett for Dr. Cloyd Pugh.

For many years Roosevelt Busby has raised large quantities of sweet corn and he is well known in this area for the fine quality of the corn. He not only sells to individuals, but to grocery stores as well.

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Al Rigdon, Roy Rigdon, Frank and Emma Gardner,  
Reuben Caudill and Ed Weir

by Helen Rigdon Coleman, Thurman and Helen Rigdon Caudill



## THRESHING RINGS

The lack of small threshing machines and the extreme high cost of the big rigs brought about the forming of a "threshing ring" or "run." One or two men usually owned a big steam engine and separator and every summer they formed a ring or circuit of farmers and traveled from farm to farm with their rig threshing the wheat and oats on each farm in their ring. Often the run would



Thought to be "Preacher" Orville Cox's Engine—1926

last from six to eight weeks; some of the rigs had their own cook shack and bunk house (a little shed on wheels) where they ate their breakfast and supper; however, most of the crews—engineer, machine man, clean-up man, and water hauler—ate breakfast, dinner and supper wherever they happened to be at meal time. The appearance of black smoke from the coal-fired engine and the echo of the steam whistle signalled the coming of the rig, and tomorrow would be threshing day.

Threshing dinners prepared for as many as 25–30 hungry men gave the women of the neighborhood a chance to see who could "set" the best threshing dinner. The best compliment any woman could get for her threshing dinner was determined by the number of workers who could eat through second and third tables. The men ate in shifts, and if one could hold enough food to eat through more than one table he was welcome to do so.

Big eaters, big bundle loaders, big grain haulers, everything was a good-natured contest—who could haul the biggest load of bundles, the most grain in a "tight bed" all good (clean?) fun—but then a bath in the huge horse tank at day's end made everything right. Neighbor helped neighbor, they had to help each other, otherwise the job didn't get done—"good old days" certainly they were!

## CORN SHUCKING

Before the corn picker became a vital part of the farmer's machinery line, corn was shucked by hand and hauled to cribs or to the local elevators by horse and wagons. Thanksgiving Day was usually the target date to be through shucking corn—but many times, due to adverse weather or shortage of help, corn was sometimes shucked all winter.

Every fall many men came to this area to shuck corn for the farmers. They often brought with them their favorite hound dog as well as their "fiddles" and banjos. They worked hard from before daybreak to dusk. Then they often hunted or played music far into the night. Their pay was usually from 1¢ to 3¢ a bushel and their room and board. Larger farmers often boarded from 6 to 12 men every fall.

Unless a man could shuck at least 100 bushels of corn and scoop it into a corn crib in a day's time, he was considered just a fair "corn-shucker." From the efforts of the better corn shuckers came the CORN SHUCKING CONTEST. First, on a local basis, then it became a State contest and eventually it became a National contest. The man who shucked the greatest number of net bushels in a certain length of time was declared the winner. A county contest was held where the bowling alley now stands. Today the great farm shows held every fall are a result of the shucking contest started back on the farm between two or three men many years ago.

## HORSES

From the corn harvest eventually came another farm sport—the horse pulling contests. They too started out on the farm and finally became National contests. A loaded wagon of corn in a muddy field often was too much of a load for a team of horses and they would balk. Soon word got around the neighborhood that Farmer Jones had a team of horses that "couldn't be stuck." Then Farmer Brown said his team could out-pull Farmer Jones' team, and the contest was on. No prizes—just pride and satisfaction in owning a pulling team.

As late as 1928-29 and 30, practically all farming was done literally by horsepower. A few farmers had a Fordson Tractor in the late 20's. In later years some were heard to say that the Fordson shortened their life a year every time they had to crank it. Some farmers even hitched a team to a Fordson and pulled it to try and start

This Page Compliments of

The Hub Tavern — Georgetown, Ill.

Carroll's Western Auto — Georgetown, Ill.

Mechalas Store 600 N. Main Georgetown, Ill.

Vermilion County Landowner's Association

63



C. W. Busby and Bill Arrasmith's Rig—1905



C. W. Busby, father of Roosevelt Busby, and Til York had this cook shack—1895

This Page Compliments of  
Radke & Coffey Implement, Inc.

Chrisman, Ill.

Parts, Sales and Service



"Nothing runs like a Deere"





Robert Scott Bines (right) built this horse barn in 1902 for his Clydesdales with money he received from shipping the first car load of oats of the season to reach the Chicago market, July 31, 1902, for \$736.11. Pictured are:— Ellis Hall, left, and Kin Henderson, center. The barn is still in use—but for grain now.

the motor. Porter Binkley lived on the Coe farm south of town and in 1928 still farmed over 600 acres with horses. It was not uncommon to see 24 head of harnessed horses leave the barn every morning during the busy farming season. Many boys left the farm and went to the city just to escape the chores of harnessing horses and milking cows.

Good draft horses were extremely valuable and hard to get, and most farmers tried to raise the horses they needed to pull their machinery. Very few farmers had their own stallion for breeding purposes. As a result, a draft horse association was formed and shares of stock were sold to raise money for the purchase of a registered stallion to up the quality and number of good draft horses in the community. Von Garrison was the first man hired to feed and look after the fine Percheron stallion purchased by the association. Later, horses were looked after by "Mayor" Davis. The association greatly improved the draft horse population, but due to advent of the tractor, it was disbanded in the late 30's.

From this community effort came the Community Horse Show that was held every fall in the streets of Ridge Farm. It was an all-day affair.

There were spectators, horses and their owners from miles around.

One fall Bob Larrance, star end on the football team, had to miss an important Saturday afternoon game (no lights then), because he was kicked in the ribs that morning at the horse show.



Gasless Sunday during World War I  
Dan Schriner and Grover Lovelette



# COMPLIMENTS OF W. M. BINES, RIDGE FARM, ILLINOIS.

I represent my threshing outfit at work on the farm of Silas Dickson and son, Burt, near Indianola, Ill. Aug. 14, '93. I have a complete Huber outfit—16-horse power engine, 36-inch cylinder, with Farmers' Friend straw stacker attached. All did the work well and rapidly. I threshed nearly 54,000 bushels of grain, this short season, in about 25 days. 2373 bushels oats one Saturday afternoon in 5 hours and 10 minutes. It was our best run. . . I furnish all the teams and men, boarding, etc., which is proving a popular hit with the farmers. My portable kitchen sleeping and dining tent show in the back-ground. The visitors shown in picture is a fair sample of our visitors nearly every day.



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**W. M. BINES**

Campaign card of W. M. Bines



Home of William M. Bines west of town  
Present home of Mr. & Mrs. Alvin (Sonny)  
Neubert

In memory of the Bines Family  
by Mrs. Elton (Margaret Lee Bines) Fisher and Anna Bines



"Horse trading" was quite popular with most farmers, if they had a horse that they didn't particularly like they tried to trade for a better horse with their neighbor or with a "jockey" (horse trader, who travelled the county trading horses). Many farmers became as well known for their "horse trading" as they were for their ability to do a good job of farming.

Gypsy camps and horse trading camps were common sights in the spring of the year. Many a horse travelled miles around the country before he found a new owner who liked him. To beat the "horse trader" at his game and win a "little boot" was indeed a rewarding experience, but to get stuck with a "balker" was just plain dumb, as well as very frustrating. The term "Poker face" must have been coined by an outsider watching two "horse traders" at work.

### POULTRY AND GRAIN SHOW

Before hybrid seed corn was developed or certified seed (wheat, oats, beans, etc.), farmers had to use for seed each year what they thought was the best of the previous year's crop. Cold and wet spring days were spent in the corn cribs sorting and "nubbing" ears of corn for seed. Again, necessity and pride in their products brought about corn and grain shows, where the farmers exhibited samples of grain in competition against their neighbors. Some decided that if they exhibited grain, why not poultry? So, through the combined efforts of Clay Cooke, Claude Banta, Dennie Forein and Tom Mendenhall, a poultry show was formed.

The first Poultry and Grain Show was held at the High School; then due to larger number of entries, at the Township Building (west of the present Post Office). Clay Cooke and Claude Banta raised Buff Orpingtons, Dennie Forein raised Barred Rocks, and Tom Mendenhall raised Rhode Island Reds. These gentlemen all became quite well known among poultry growers as they exhibited at State Fairs, etc.

John Land and sons, Steven and Richard, operate a certified seed business, as does Cole Morton. Mr. Morton was one of the first in this area to raise certified seeds and hybrid seed corn.

When the corn was hauled to the elevators in the ear, the elevator operator had to have it shelled before he shipped it out. Disposing of the vast piles of corn cobs was quite a problem. One of the men who did his best to solve this problem was George W. Baker. George hauled cobs from the elevator to practically every cobhouse in town.

They were used to start fires in the stoves and furnaces in the homes. Cobs were a quick and very efficient source of heat, also an ample supply of ammunition for a "corn cob fight" between neighboring kids. Two of Mr. Baker's sons live in this area: Ernest "Pedro" Baker in Ridge Farm, and John Baker in Vermilion Grove.



A Butchering Crew

### BUTCHERING TIME

Neighbors had butchering rings as well as threshing rings and they operated much the same way; however, the hogs to be butchered were often gathered on one farm and the job was completed in one day. Some farmers were known for their "curing" process, and to them fell the job of salting and sacking the hams, shoulders and sides for hanging in the smoke house for curing. Long before daybreak the fires were started under the huge iron kettles to heat water for scalding. As many as 20 or more hogs were butchered at a time—nothing ever tasted as good as fresh tenderloin cooked in the kettles of rendering lard.



Raymond (Dude) Ingram Trucking

This Page Compliments of

Bass Tire and Oil — 602 S. Gilbert St., Danville, Ill.

Fidelity Loan — Jack Stewart, Terry Banta, Dale Bridges

Pete Lary, President, Vermilion County Young Republicans

Glass Specialty System



Inside the Ridge Farm Creamery. Allred F. Goodner (left), and Walter Madsen

Account Sales of *One bar Standard Oats*  
BY **Re Qua Bros.**, FOR ACCOUNT OF *W. F. Banta Esq*  
CHICAGO, *7/21-02* 189 .

[illegible]

Old Sale Bill representing the first of the year on the Chicago Market.



Auctioneer Carl Busby

## ON (AND OFF) THE FARM



First Customer at the new bank — Paul Bell



## ANOTHER RIDGE FARM?

This picture, taken at the lane leading to Alfred Foster's home at Blue Ridge Summit, Pa., shows Mrs. Lee Rafferty by the sign Mr. Foster had made. He named his home "Ridge Farm" as a memorial to the town where he was born and raised. He and Mrs. Rafferty are direct descendants of Abraham Smith, original settler of Ridge Farm.

# Churches

## VERMILION GROVE FRIENDS

The first church in Elwood Township was also the first Quaker church in the state. The first comers to Vermilion Grove worshipped in a trapper's cabin in 1820 or 1821. The meeting was organized in 1826. A walnut log meeting house erected shortly after that was replaced by a frame building in 1852. By then there were 60 families and 48 parts of families with a total membership of 521.

The first Friends Churches had no paid ministers. Elders sat on the facing bench; after a silent meeting they stood, shook hands and meeting was dismissed. George Haworth was first presiding elder at Vermilion Grove. Women ministers

have always been recognized by the Friends churches. The Clerks of Western Yearly Meeting in 1870 announced the ministers recorded in this township were John Folger, W. P. Haworth, Cyrus Moon, William F. Henderson, Hannah Ann Commons, Thomas C. Brown, John Hoskins, Rachel Hester, Melissa Haworth, Phillip Commons, Sarah Simcox, Ann Murdock, and John Haworth. One of the marriages here was that of Della Smith and W. W. Peck.

Vermilion Quarterly Meeting started in 1863 included Quaker, Pilot Grove, Ridge Farm, Vermilion Grove, Carroll and six churches outside the county.

The building now in use was built in 1884 at Vermilion Grove for the large crowd coming



Vermilion Grove Friends Church



by train and interurban to the Quarterly Meetings. Earlier Joseph G. Cannon came regularly with his parents from Bloomingdale. When he was nominated on the same ticket as Lincoln, 1860, he campaigned in Elwood and Georgetown Townships, spending much time here with friends. He won the election as District Attorney by 276 votes, his plurality here.

In 1874 the concern of Friends for a "guarded education" for their children culminated in the founding of Vermilion Academy. Members of Vermilion Quarterly Meeting gave \$8,000 for a high school for 160 students at Vermilion Grove. Thomas Hester gave four acres of land adjoining the Quarterly Meeting House and Dr. Thomas Lamb was one of the first principals. The four graduates in the first class were S. Murray Clark, Florence Elliot Rees, Alice Brown Charles, and Jane Hollingworth Moore. Her husband George was principal of the Academy for ten years, later pastor at Ridge Farm Friends Church.

In 1911 friends of the school raised \$10,000 to build a new gym, the first one in the south part of the county.

Professor F. O. Marshall, Bessie Pringle and Surrilda Ellis were long time teachers at the Academy. It closed 1932 due to economic conditions and students were bused to Ridge Farm.

The bell from the belfry is on a permanent basis between the church and Academy building, due to the efforts of Joë Pugh, Dale Mills and Russell Rees.

The Academy Centennial, September 8, 1974, will be the last annual reunion.

At the turn of the century, this church sent one of the alumni of the Academy, Emory Rees and his wife Deborah to Africa to reduce the native tongue to the written language and translate a Bible for their use.

Dwight and Beulah Brown Moss are pastors now.

## RIDGE FARM FRIENDS CHURCH

T. C. Rees was the first clerk of Ridge Farm Friends Church, according to the records of 1872. R. H. Davis, Treasurer. The first building committee was composed of Levi Newlin, H. C. Smith, A. Holaday, Uriah Hadley, John Hester, W. M. Weeks, B. F. Jenkins, Caleb Lewis, E. Goodwin, Levi Rees. Additional names were the Duall family and A. B. Whinrey family. The house and grounds cost \$2429.50 in 1876. Remodeling in 1921 was \$2,470, with about the same amount spent for added class rooms five years later.



Ridge Farm Friends Church Built 1872

Ola Pierce resigned as Sunday School Superintendent in 1925 and Oliver Walthall served for many years. Grant Johnson came as pastor in 1945 and during his stay the new church building was erected.

Pilot Grove church burned in 1937 and they united with Ridge Farm the following year.

In 1973 a three-fold anniversary was observed. A century for the church, 50 years for remodeling the church on South Main Street and 20 years in the new stone building with a parsonage of matching design. Much volunteer labor from the members, with Rev. Johnson, kept down the cost. An efficient kitchen and dining room in the basement provide an excellent place for church dinners and a meeting place for the community.

The first wedding was that of Ruth Fletcher and George Castle in 1917.

David and Christine Peterson are pastors now.



Present Ridge Farm Friends Church - Built 1953



Nazarene Church, formerly the Presbyterian Church

### RIDGE FARM NAZARENE CHURCH

Mrs. Havana High

The Nazarene Church was organized October, 1937. Of seven charter members, Havana High is the only one left. Rev. Mrs. L. B. Smith, whose husband was a former Professor at Olivet College, was the first minister. Her son, Rev. Samuel Smith, presently minister at Danville Nazarene Church, and students from Olivet College helped in the organization.

Their first tabernacle, still standing across from the present lumber yard, had been used as a rooming house. Rev. Mrs. Smith's faith, zeal, and godly spirit helped them realize her dream to purchase their present church in 1943. Other ministers have been: Rev. Lena Mae Peters, George Reader, Floyd Hagley, Paul Holtzclaw and, for the past 12 years, Rev. Carl Lee.

Under Rev. Lee's leadership, a fellowship house, nursery, P. A. system and parking lot have been added.



### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By Betty Monroe

In 1899 two evangelists from St. Louis Christian Church held a five-weeks revival meeting in the Old Armory. At the close of the meeting, 90

people were ready to organize a Christian Church. Frank Miller, Anna Cole, Ollie Miller, trustees, purchased a lot for \$250.

Brick work and plastering on the new building were done by R. J. Bratton and Harve Purkhiser was carpenter.

Under the pastorate of Rev. Jupin, a basement and furnace were added in 1920, a classroom in 1951. Damaged by fire three years later, it was rebuilt. Members and townspeople gave gifts for furnishings. Nearby laymen and ministers held services during the rebuilding.

Roland Moll came as pastor in 1957. Floyd Murray comes now from Indianola.

### A HISTORY OF THE RIDGE FARM

#### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By Iris Van Buskirk and Rev. Eugene Barkley

The heritage of the United Methodist Church includes almost one and a half centuries of dedicated Christian commitment. Its development began with the early settlers in class meetings and preaching services; later they organized into separate Presbyterian and Methodist congregations; eventually these two groups combined resources in a Federated Church which existed for twenty-seven years; finally resulting in today's vital fellowship of United Methodists.

The first Methodist meetings were held regularly by Elijah Yager, the community's second school teacher, a preacher from East Tennessee.

The next regular preaching services were conducted at the home of Samuel Graham in 1828 by Rev. James McKain and Rev. John E. French.

At first a part of the Wabash District, then transferred into the Danville District, this charge has had itinerant Methodist preachers assigned to it since 1835. The first preacher was W. S. Crissey.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Ridge Farm was organized by a class that met south of Ridge Farm about 1849. This group moved into town in 1852 and began holding their services in the school building.

The first church was built in 1856 when Sampson Shinn was the preacher in charge. This church was located north of what is now the church parking lot. The building burned in 1863. A store building was used as a house of worship until a new church was built on the site now occupied by the Carnegie Library at a cost of \$3,000 in 1872. The parsonage was on the lot south of the church.

In the fall of 1905, the congregation decided to build a new church. A contract was signed May 16, 1906, with J. P. Morehead, contractor from Tuscola, Illinois, to build the church at its present location on South State Street for \$11,300 to be completed in October of the same year. The cornerstone was laid on August 6, 1906, with a dedication of the church held on February 26, 1907.

During the same era the Presbyterian Church was organized in 1854 by a Cumberland Presbyterian, Rev. James Ashmore. Their first church was a very plain frame building erected in 1856. In the latter part of the 1800's, the church was re-organized and more modern frame church was built on the same foundation. They joined the Union of the Presbyterian Church of America. In 1908, the church building was again remodeled into a brick veneer church, today serving as the Church of the Nazarene.

As the years passed, both congregations were served by many fine ministers but there were periods when both churches struggled to exist, and at times were without pastors. Times were hard in the 1930's, and money was scarce. In the spring of 1936 neither church had a pastor—both using part-time ministers from Danville. It was then that the leaders from the two congregations, after much planning and prayer, decided it wise to combine their talents and resources so that they could have one church with a resident pastor and accomplish more in the community for the glory of God. This union was called a federation.

It was decided that the Methodist building would be more adequate for a larger congregation.

The first joint meeting was held May 10, 1936, with 198 in attendance at Sunday School, and an offering of \$7.73. On November 16, 1936, the congregations met to ratify the Articles of Federation and to elect officers. The Advisory Board included Merlin Smith, Mrs. Harry Brock-Jones, Mrs. Allen Jones, C. M. Harrold, W. W. Peck and Monroe Ewing. The Finance Board members were Mrs. Nolin Weathers, Harry Brock-Jones, E. M. Schermerhorn, J. Cole Morton, Mrs. Frank Busby and Mrs. Lewis Forein. Mr. Andrew Preston, a Presbyterian Seminary student, was the first pastor of the Federated Church. On October 8, 1961, the church celebrated their Twenty-fifth Anniversary as the Federated Church. Rev. Carl R. Hendry was the pastor at this time.

During the twenty-seven years the church was federated, it was served by many fine ministers, both Presbyterian and Methodist, but again in June, 1963, the Federated Church was without a pastor. On October 16, 1963, the Ridge Farm Methodists and Presbyterians met separately and together with prayerful deliberation to consider a new step—to unite as one denomination. The former members of the Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to unite with and to become Methodists. The reception of a pastor, Rev. Charles A. Bennett, and members, and the service of Holy Communion was conducted by Rev. Kermit Gregory, Methodist District Superintendent, on De-



Presbyterian Church  
Built in late 1800's  
Present site of  
Nazarene Church



ember 8, 1963. In 1968, a national merger of the former Methodist Churches and Evangelical United Brethren Churches resulted in the present name of the church, Ridge Farm United Methodist Church.

Important to the church's growth has been the presence of its dedicated Women's groups. The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church was active in that church's life even before its building was completed. The Aid Society had an Open House and Tea the week after its dedication in 1908.

Likewise the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church served as a directing group in its life and work. Both groups assisted in needed improvements, served many dinners, and assisted in the Missionary Support of the respective fellowships.

Merged by the Federation, the two groups became one. Over the years its members have been active community leaders as well as involved in many District offices. The Ladies Aid became the Women's Society of Christian Service in 1961, and finally the United Methodist Women in 1973.

The Ridge Farm United Methodist Church has been served by many devoted ministers working for the good of the community, country, and world. Our present minister, Rev. O. Eugene Barkley and family, have been with the church since June, 1971. With their dedication and enthusiasm, the work of the church has moved forward.

## Chronological List of Ministers who have served

### THE RIDGE FARM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Year	Minister
1835	W. S. Crissey J. Colson
1836	James Harsha Moses Robbarts
1837	Alex Wallis
1838	Lewis Anderson Asahel L. Risley
1839	Richard Bird L. Dickinson
1840	Collin J. James
1841	McKendree Tharpp
1842-3	Arthur Bradshaw
1844	John Adams
1845	Wm. L. Gage
1846-7	George W. Fairbank
1848	C. W. C. Munsell
1849-50	Hiram Buck
1851-2	R. C. Norton
1853	W. H. H. Moor
1854-5	Sampson Shinn
1856	E. Carrington
1857	George W. Fairbank
1858-9	Greenburg Garner
1860-1	Joseph Lane
1862-4	J. Muirhead





1865-6 I. Groves  
 1867 J. C. Lewis  
 1868 S. T. Kershner  
 1869 Lang  
 1870-2 James Miller  
 1873 G. M Crays  
 1874 W. Lang  
 1875-6 R. Stephens  
 1877-8 S. H. Whitlock  
 1879-80 A. C. Randolph  
 1881 George W. Bates  
 1882 J. R. Reasoner  
 1883-4 T. J. N. Simmons  
 1885-6 F. C. Fay  
 1887 George W. Bates  
 1888-9 J. W. Eckman  
 1890-1 T. O. Baty  
 1892 G. B. Wolfe  
 E. E. Bean  
 1893 C. D. Draper  
 1894 J. Frank Poorman  
 1895 Wm. M. Gooding  
 1896-99 J. B. Colwell  
 1900-1 J. M. Oakwood  
 1902-4 A. D. Moon  
 1905-8 E. L. Pletcher  
 1909-12 G. F. Juvinall  
 1913-15 F. L. Cook  
 1915-18 H. A. Sherman

1919-20 H. W. Miller  
 1921-23 J. C. Powers  
 1924-45 W. C. Harms  
 1926-28 Paul M. Curry  
 1929-32 R. Ross Fleming  
 1933-34 C. B. Snider  
 1935 Boscoe Fairchild

#### Federated Ministers

1936-8 A. C. Preston  
 1939 C. H. Bryan  
 1940 W. D. McIntosh  
 1941 D. L. Jeffers  
 1942-3 C. F. Chasteen  
 1944-5 Hilka Green  
 1946-7 D. L. Schroeder  
 1948 Blanche Fletcher  
 1949-50 Dean R. DeVeney  
 1951-2 Robert White  
 1953-4 Jackson Parsons  
 1955-6 G. A. Hinkle  
 1957-9 Harold Sheldon  
 1960 James Knight  
 1961-3 Carl R. Hendry

#### Methodist Ministers

1963 Charles Bennett  
 1964-7 Harold R. Halfyard  
 1968-70 Elmer W. Ditch  
 1971- O. Eugene Barkley



Presbyterian Ladies Aid at Cole Morton's grandparents' home



Women's Adult Bible Class,  
M. E. Sunday School—1915



Ridge Farm Methodist Church

## RIDGE FARM CHURCH OF CHRIST

By Gertrude Gardner

The Church of Christ in Ridge Farm began meeting in a store building, August 31, 1952, with 55 present at the morning worship and 38 at the evening services.

There were fifteen rededications to the Lord and His church, that we would build a church in the Ridge Farm Community founded upon every teaching of the New Testament.

August 30, 1953, was our first Sunday in a newly purchased building, where we are presently meeting.



Ridge Farm Church of Christ

# Organizations

## ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

The charter members of the North Star  
Camp No. 480 included the following:

Florence Baldwin, Outer Sentinel  
Drusilla Cooke, Manager  
Christiana Dickson, Chancellor  
Mary Forbes, Oracle  
Levi Hadley, Manager  
Laura Lancaster, Marshall  
Maggie Near  
Golden Patterson  
Lillie Patterson  
Eva Pickard, Vice-Oracle  
Lucy Pugh, Past Oracle  
Paris Pugh  
Margaret Slaughter, Inner  
Sentinel  
J. P. Smith  
Myrtle Smith, Recorder  
P. H. Swaim, M. D., Physician  
Emma Turpin, Receiver  
R. W. Turpin  
James Willison  
Lucretia Willison, Manager



Fifty-year members of Camp No. 480, and  
the dates on which they were sent their golden  
50-year membership jewels are listed here:

Florence Newlin Carmack	10/21/65
Anna Coe	5/15/50
Louis Coe	5/15/50
Laura Connor	8/9/63
Grace Cooke	4/18/73
Cecil Davis	10/21/65
Nannie Dickerson	4/18/69
Ida Ellis	9/13/61
Ethel Emory	2/1/72
Olive Enos	6/25/65
Mary Francis	10/21/65
Hallie Graham	6/23/70
Edythe Harrington	1/28/72
Jessie Hester	10/3/69
Grace Holaday	3/29/63
Flossie Longfellow	1/7/61
Mae Madsen	6/25/65

Ethel Mullins	10/19/62
Ellen Murray	10/3/72
Della Pugh	1/14/53
Minnie Sewell	4/7/62
Marguerite Goodner Simone	10/31/72
Nora Stevenson	3/21/66
Bertha Thompson	7/17/67
Grace Thompson	8/9/60
Lucretia Willison	5/15/50
Leona Young	10/3/69

### 1974 Officers are:

Oracle	Dorothy Spangler
Past Oracle	Florence Milholland
Vice Oracle	Dorothy Loop
Chancellor	Ellen Murray
Recorder	Mary Weiss
Receiver	Ellen Murray
Marshall	Mary Henderson
Assistant Marshall	Lucy Garrison





Members of the Club in the Picture are:

Grace Reese Harold  
Bertha Cowan  
Kate Bates Baum

Cleo Cowan  
Lydia Wasson  
Lida Jones

Will Haworth  
Robert Bines  
Ralph Cowan

Monroe Ewing  
John Foster

The GMC Club in 1890

### G M C CLUB by Margaret Lee Bines Fisher

In the 1890's, an enterprising group of young people organized a social club—the GMC Club—the meaning of which they never divulged to outsiders. Scandalous to the elders of the community, they met in an upper room (without chaperones) of one of the store buildings in the southwest section of the business district; a section of which burned one cold Easter Sunday morning in 1923. We all watched the fire instead of attending church services that day.

In my girlhood, most of this group were the social, economic, educational, and religious leaders of Ridge Farm. There were:

Monroe Ewing—jeweler, school board member, elder of the Presbyterian Church and of various civic organizations

John Foster—President of First National Bank  
Robert Bines—farmer, noted for Clydesdale breeding stock, also an elder of the Presbyterian Church.

As they married and established families, the first child was presented a silver spoon with GMC engraved in the bowl, their birth date on the back and the number given. My spoon has an 8 on the handle, which means my father was the 8th member to become a parent.

In later years, when one of the gang returned, particularly Will Haworth, it was cause for a reunion. I remember picnics at Buell Woods and one time a dinner in the room above the old Hornada Drug Store. Such good times they had reminiscing about their escapades of earlier days.



A Social Club, the Mystic Crew—May 11, 1898

Ridge Farm Bicycle Club



## BETTER HOMES CLUB

By Hazel Humrichouse

Viewing the scrap book composed by Better Homes Club, on file at the Library, gives a bird's-eye view of our town's history.

In 1928 Bessie Hester wrote a poem explaining how the club started. Depression days made Home Bureau dues hard to meet, so a group of farm wives formed this self-sufficient unit to prepare their own lessons on a variety of topics. Planned picnics, tours, a family party annually, and a "white elephant" sale occasionally so we could give away our cracked pots.

There are pictures of Hobo Days, fashion shows of auctioned hats and dresses, family groups, minstrels, unflattering candid shots, and anniversary parties. Four golden weddings of members were those of the Albert Thompsons, Walter Humrichouses, John Humrichouses, and Roy Whitlocks. Quilts made for the Children's Home, mending for them, helping hands to many in need. Indeed, there is a letter to Tom Brenne-man recommending Blanche Mills for the "Good Neighbor Award."

Merlin Smith is commended for 38 years as rural mail carrier. Loren Spesard is pictured with his blue ribbon, fine harness pony class. Ike Whitlock as Young Farmer of the year in 1960. Joe Pugh showing his extensive rock collection begun by his mother a century before. Mrs. Eleanor Hill and Goldie Hodges were honored for their long terms of teaching at Harrison School. Fifty-year Masons in there were brothers John and Walter Humrichouse. John was County Board Supervisor for ten years.

Major J. R. Weathers conducted Gov. Stratton on a tour of Camp Riley, Minn. Weathers commanded the First Battalion, 130th Infantry, headquartered in Danville, Illinois. He was later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

Mary Hannah Castle's graduation in 1936, was the third generation from Ridge Farm High. Bell Fletcher Mitchell in 1886, Ruth Fletcher Castle in 1913. Steve, Becky, and Janice Majors will make four generations. There are pictures of the George Castle family as winners of the Illinois Sports Festival in 1947, the Singing Farm Family at the State Fairs in Illinois and Iowa.

On the club's 20th anniversary, Hazel Harby wrote a poem, "If we haven't time to smile, stop from work and go to club and give a howdy do—we're not getting any of the cream of life, but life's skimmed milk instead." Two days in Chica-

go in 1953, 28 members celebrated the 25th anniversary of the group. At Tom Moore's Lady Fair, Helen Ellis, Irene Trimble, and Martha Mendenhall won gifts. They highly recommended Lowell Thomas' Travelogue. Springfield's Historic Sites were the places visited on another outing.

We are still going strong in 1974 and wonder how we will observe our 50th year in 1978!

## RIDGE FARM LIONS CLUB

Carl Erdmann

Fred Coleman

Ridge Farm Lions Club, chartered in 1940 with 20 members, is the only service club at the present time and has been active with fund raising projects in order to contribute to local and national needs. The first President was D. W. Brewer; Secretary, Oscar Spangler; Treasurer, J. C. Enright. C. W. Erdmann has the longest continuous membership—31 years.

The \$600 Pavilion at Ward Park, the community building there with kitchen facilities and rest rooms, the plan to replace the trees with some donated by Dr. Pugh from his place near Bethel, are projects of the Club. The trees mentioned are fair-sized trees and will be moved with a mechanical spade; a ceremony is being planned for the tree planting. This is being done in conjunction with the Village Board of Trustees.

The annual Fall Festival is replaced this year by the Centennial; Lions Club is taking a strong part in this. President Fred Coleman is Co-chairman for the event. Other projects are the Halloween Masquerade with prizes and treats, the Christmas party, Ladies Night every quarter, the annual Fish Fry, annual Euchre Party, and \$1,000 cash drawing which will be given at the Centennial.

The Club contributes to the "National Fund for the Blind" which includes the "Leader Day Program Braille for the Blind" and "Glaucoma



Lions Club Building in Ward Park

This Page Compliments of  
Bryant's Auto Parts  
Radio Hook-up for Fast, Efficient Service  
Used Car Sales — Mechanical Service — Westville, Ill.  
Phone: 267-2124



Research" and has furnished eye glasses to a number of local residents who needed them.

In 1973, the Lions Club voted to try to acquire more land to increase the size of the park.

#### Present members are:

Fred Coleman, President  
 Harry Ehlenfeld, 1st Vice-President  
 Virgil Bange, 2nd Vice-President  
 Larry Young, 3rd Vice-President  
 Melvin Phenicie, Treasurer  
 Murray Phenicie, Secretary  
 Art Lewis, Lion Tamer  
 George Cornwell, Tail Twister  
 Thomas Georges, 1 Yr. Director  
 Mitch Valangeon, 1 Yr. Director  
 Paul Kincaid, 2 Yr. Director  
 Jay Tate, 2 Yr. Director

Steve Kelley	Joe Goodner
Adam Latoz	Dennis Grupe
Dale Lierman	Floyd Henderson
Ron Boyer	Joel Hollingsworth
Buford Plog	Dearl Huff
Dale Romoser	John Jackson
Ray Shelton	Henry Jenner
Wilbur Stevens	John Woodard
Eugene Barkley	Faustyn Thompson
Mark Blakeney	John Van Voorhis
Gene Davenport	John Bian
Wallace Deck	Dale Phenicie
Carl Erdmann	

#### W. Y. L. K. CLUB

(Wouldn't You Like to Know)

This club was organized by Verna Peck of Ridge Farm, now of Danville, Illinois, in October 1914. This year they will celebrate their 60th anniversary.

The twelve members were mostly old school mates, six living in Georgetown, six in Ridge Farm. Original members were:

Verna Peck	Ethel Hunter
Una Fisk Pribble	Pearl Galbreath Chandler
Edith Reynolds Mills	Blanche Cooke Maffett
Vessie Hathaway Hawkins	Edna Jones
Nelle Humrichouse	Mary Shonk
Lancaster	Mynn Yelton Emory
Edythe Brinkerhoff	
Harrington	

Edythe Harrington is the only 60-year member still retaining membership in this club.

The members now are:

Ridge Farm	Georgetown
Irma Blakeney Banta	Goldie Lewis Sheets
Grace Boston Cooke	Ferne Hughes Lenhart
Lillian Martin Walthall	Mabel Sprouls Martin
Ruth Fletcher Castle	Westville
Edythe Brinkerhoff	Nettie Duff Larrance
Harrington	

#### EASTERN STAR

The Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Illinois was organized December 6, 1875, with representatives from 22 chapters present.

At that time 181 chapters were in existence. Of these 181 chapters, only 20 have maintained uninterrupted existence.

Beulah Chapter of Ridge Farm is one of the original 20, it being organized October 9, 1890, with the following charter members:

Buena Banta	Mary Stevenson
Alice Brown	Sarah Little
Jennie Bedinger	J. P. Tuttle
Susie Barrick	Eva Woodyard
Maggie Baum	John Kendall
Addie Guffin	Jennie Kendall
Lou Hole	Ollie Kendall
Naomi Lane	Kate Kendall
Louise Pribble	

First Worthy Matron was Maggie Baum; Worthy Patron Archie Stevenson. Beulah Chapter No. 157 meetings were held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, recently it was changed to once a month on the second Thursday at the Masonic Hall.

Many have enjoyed friends' night, guests nights and Worthy Matron and Patron nights. Highlights of the Chapter were the celebration of the 50th, 55th, and 75th anniversaries; and now they are looking forward in 16 years to the 100th celebration.

Eighteen officers constitute a chapter. Susie Henderson is now Worthy Matron and Ted Henderson Worthy Patron—1974. There is now a membership of 56 with 15 living 50-year members.

Officers and members of Beulah Chapter 157 Order of Eastern Star, reenacted the institution of their chapter at the 55th anniversary. They wore authentic costumes at the celebration held at the High School in 1930.



55th Anniversary of the Ridge Farm Eastern Star

Front row, left to right: Mrs. Esther Forein, Mrs. Anna Goodner, Mrs. Edith Innis, Worthy Matron; Mrs. June Raley, Mrs. Alice Goodner

Second row: Mrs. Doris Lowenstein, Mrs. Blanche Kinney, Mrs. Frances Foster, Mrs. Esther Ensor, Mrs. Blanche Mills

Standing: Paul Innis, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Nora Stevenson, Mrs. Grace Cooke, Max Dillman, Claude Foster

## AMERICAN LEGION AND AUXILIARY

By Kenneth and Faustine Hawkins

U. C. Fletcher Post No. 334, the American Legion of Ridge Farm, was chartered on December 24, 1919, with thirty-six members. The post was named after Ulysses Carl Fletcher, who was killed in Romaine, France, just days before the Armistice was signed. This tragedy resulted in the naming of the post by his friends and comrades. Only two of the signers of the original charter, Ted Henderson and Arthur Glick, are still members. The Post originally met in the Armory with Dr. H. F. Dice as first Commander.

Some time during the thirties the Post occupied the upper story of the building on the southeast corner of the square, and meetings were held there until after World War II. With the return of the World War II veterans, the membership grew rapidly and attained an all-time high of 130 members in 1947.

During the depression years of the thirties, the Post was held together by a few hard working Legionnaires. Memorial Day services were conducted for many years and each year in all the surrounding cemeteries, flags were placed on the graves of deceased veterans of all wars.

In 1950, one of the Legion's most successful and important civic projects was instituted with the sponsorship of the Little League Baseball program. Since that time the program has been expanded to include almost all ages of boys wishing to participate. Funds raised from the turkey drawings each year have made this possible. Another project was the placing of flag holders at each business establishment and the flying of flags on appropriate holidays. Boys were sent each year to Boys' State, and Citizenship medals awarded to best girl and boy citizen in the Grade School.

The Auxiliary was formed February 10, 1947, with thirty-one members signing the charter. Fourteen of these charter members belong to the unit at this time, with seven members over the age of eighty. In 1952, a Junior Auxiliary was formed with twenty-five members. Some of these members now belong to the adult unit. The Legion and Auxiliary both promote Americanism, Community Service, Child Welfare, Rehabilitation, Veteran's Craft, The Poppy, The Flag, Girls' State, Boys' State, Civil Defense, Education and Scholarship, National Security and Legislation. The Auxiliary has participated in assisting with three nurses' scholarships, provided funds for 27 Girls' Staters, awarded medals to Girl Good Citizen in the High School. Each year topics are presented to both grade and high schools for the Americanism Essay Contest. In past years the unit held Poppy Poster contests for students, and, along with the Legion's Memorial Services, placed floral sprays on the veterans' graves.

One of the high lights of the Auxiliary program is the honoring of the Gold Star Mothers with a special remembrance each Mothers' Day. The oldest of these Mothers are Mrs. Fredricka Schermerhorn and Allie Baldwin, sister of U. C. Fletcher.

An important function of both the Legion



Monument to the Harrison Purchase

and Legion Auxiliary is to participate in programs to help the patients in our Veterans' Hospitals, and to protect our motto—"Lest We Forget." These programs have made U. C. Fletcher Post 334 and the Auxiliary an important and integral part of the Ridge Farm community.

We regret that we were unable to obtain a complete list of men serving in the undeclared wars since World War II.

### RIDGE FARM WOMAN'S CLUB

By Edna H. Morton

Discussion and plans for organizing a Woman's Club began in the Fall of 1911 through the efforts of Mrs. J. A. Kern, who had belonged to a Woman's Club in Urbana.

The Club was started as a Home Economics study course and gradually progressed to the civic club it is today.

The Ridge Farm Woman's Club was formally organized on April 6, 1912, with 18 charter members: Mrs. C. E. Baum, Mrs. R. S. Bines, Mrs. J. A. Burgan, Miss Laverne Burgan, Mrs. C. F. Cooke, Mrs. Ola Cooper, Mrs. L. B. Coggeshall, Mrs. C. M. Harrold, Mrs. D. C. Hinshaw, Mrs. F. M. Hole,

Mrs. Charles Hornada, Miss Edna Hornada, Mrs. J. H. Kendall, Mrs. J. A. Kern, Mrs. J. B. Morton, Mrs. F. W. Pribble and Miss Ruby Schermerhorn.

Community betterment was an early concern of the club. They were first to give food and clothing to the needy at Thanksgiving and first to send boxes of candy and singing carols to aged and shut-ins at Christmas time.

Over a period of time our club has been prominent in civic betterment programs.

The club in September, 1927, placed a marker on the site, east of town, where William Henry Harrison met the Indians and some local men and negotiated the Harrison Purchase Treaty.

Another club project was the planting of trees with name plates in Crown Hill Cemetery honoring each Elwood Township boy listed in World War I.

Later the club placed a boulder at the entrance to the cemetery in remembrance of deceased club members. It was dedicated September 1938.

Speakers were brought to town to give both sides of current issues affecting voters. A particular effort was made to get the women out to vote.

The Ridge Farm Club was Vermilion County



Knights of Pythias Band



and 18th District Federated in 1916, and General and State Federated in 1931. Ever alert to obligations as a service club, it complied with all county, district and state requests.

In 1962, the club celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding at the home of Mrs. Lewis Forein with the assistance of the other anniversary committee members. District and county officers present were given special recognition, as was Mrs. Mary K. Harrold, the charter member present.

The club has stood the tests of time and upheld its ideals and retained that pioneer spirit that inspired the 18 charter members to do something for themselves and their town.

The Woman's Club ideal as stated in the constitution: "It's object shall be the mutual council and sympathy, unity of action in case of need, and the promotion of higher social, moral and economics in the home."

### RIDGE FARM DAY UNIT OF HOME ECONOMICS EXTENSION By Mabel Ellis

Early in the 1920's, Mrs. Minnie Hazzard and Mrs. Iva Humrichouse called on several of their neighborhood women, who lived east of Ridge Farm and asked them to become charter members of an organization for farm women called Home Bureau. Hortense Jones, Bessie Hester and Gladys Neubert are still members.

During the depression of the 30's the unit was forced to disband because no one had money for dues. It was reorganized in 1935 and included women from Humrick, Ridge Farm and Vermilion Grove and was called the Harrison Home Bureau. Dues were \$3.00 a year and could be paid 25¢ a month.

Then in October, 1948, the name was changed to Home Economics Extension. The aim of the Home Extension is to supplement educational services of the University of Illinois, to better the welfare of the individual and the family and to promote better understanding in the community, home, church, school, state and nation. 4-H clubs are sponsored by Home Extension.

At each meeting held by the Ridge Farm Day Unit on the first Tuesday of each month, lessons are given by members, which they take from specialists from the University or county advisors, at the County office in Danville. The county ad-

visor gives the lesson to each unit three times a year. At present, we have 19 members. Four of our members have been Past County Chairman. They are: Mary Canaday, Hortense Jones, Ruth Castle, and Gladys Neubert.

### RIDGE FARM NIGHT UNIT OF HOME ECONOMICS EXTENSION By Marie Willison

Ridge Farm Night Unit of Home Bureau was started in 1948 at the home of Mrs. Charlotte Neal. The Day Unit donated \$15.00 to help them organize. The name was also changed to Ridge Farm Unit, and in 1962 to Home Extension.

Chosen as Vermilion County "Woman of the Year" was Marie Willison, 1968, and Della Mae Arnett in 1972.

The Unit has sponsored 4-H Clubs each year, with these leaders serving at least three years: Naomi Plog, Betty Larrance, Beth Carsman, Della Mae Arnett, Pauline Humrichouse, Gladys Hamilton, Nadean Weller, Elizabeth Fuel, Mildred Dillman, and Marie Willison.

Marie Willison and Della Mae Arnett have had perfect attendance 25 years and 18 years, respectively, and both have worked in the Federal Expanded Nutrition Program.

Gertrude Fisher, Betty Larrance, and Marie Willison have served on the County Council.

### RIDGE FARM LODGE NO. 632, A. F. & A. M.

The institution of Masonry was brought to the New World from England in the hearts of some of the very earliest colonists. Many of the greatest leaders in the colonial days were Masons. Masons were among the signers of the Declaration of Independence and among those who fought for the right to be free and independent of English rule. Many of the foresighted founders of this great country were Masons and some of the most respected and best loved leaders throughout our history have been Masons. As the frontiers advanced across the land, Masonry advanced too and had a great influence for good wherever it went.

It is known that Masons came early to Ridge Farm and by October 5, 1869, had been actively holding meetings under special dispensation of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, at which time Ridge Farm Lodge No. 632 was granted a charter to

operate, independent of any other lodge except the Grand Lodge. The number 632 indicates that there were over 600 separate and independent Masonic Lodges in the State at that time. The Grand Lodge of Illinois named Jonah Hole as Worshipful Master, Walker Harris as Senior Warden and Marion A. Harrold as Junior Warden. These three principal officers were granted the Charter of Authority and the Responsibility, along with other devoted Masons, to establish and maintain a Masonic Lodge in the community of Ridge Farm. Ridge Farm Lodge No. 632 has been active continuously since that time. Many of the best known and most respected citizens have had membership in the Lodge and have been elected by their fellow Masons to conduct the business of the Lodge. The three principal officers elected to serve during 1974 are William R. Myers, Worshipful Master; Stanley Richardson, Senior Warden and Edward H. Mahler, Junior Warden.

A century ago Ridge Farm Lodge had 25 members. Since that time the membership at times neared 200, but presently stands at 103, with signs of growth and increased interest evident.

In 1909 the building housing the Lodge burned and all records were completely destroyed, but some duplicates were gleaned from old Grand Lodge reports and other sources by the diligent

efforts of William R. Hornada, who was sincerely devoted to Masonry for many years. Mr. Hornada was a Past Master, a long time Secretary and a Grand Lecturer, commissioned as such by the Grand Lodge of Illinois. The tenets of a Mason's profession and the foundation of the Masonic Lodge are scripturally derived, basic and fundamental truths which are essential to the good order of society. Masonry is not a secret organization because members do not deny nor conceal their affiliation. It is a fellowship of men who do not attempt to advocate any particular religious or political beliefs nor to discriminate against any person for theirs. Many people have lived honorably and usefully, according to their own codes of religion and ethics without knowing how very closely their standards resembled the teachings of Masonry.

It is sincerely hoped that Masonry will continue to be an influence for good in Ridge Farm because it seeks only to help create a better civilization for all.

Ridge Farm Masons have fifteen fifty-year members: Herschel Boggess, Earl Busby, Archie Cornett, C. Paul Fletcher, O. Frank Fletcher, Dennis Forein, Lewis Forein, Ted Henderson, Walter Humrichouse, Henry Jenner, Ed Mahler, Howard Pugh, Nolin Weathers, and Walter Madsen, 93, has 69 years in the Masons.

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

By Dale Lierman

Cole Morton remembers camping trips in 1915 with Rev. Cook of the Methodist Church as leader. The Boy Scouts walked to Homer on the Salt Fork River to camp for a week. Another



Rear, left to right: Cole Morton, Floyd Rafferty, Dale Banta, Robert Banta, Ward Kendall, Methodist minister "Preacher" Cook, Scoutmaster, Alfred Reese  
Front: Floyd Sisson, Fred Ankrum

week's camping was on the Little Vermilion River west and north of Vermilion Grove. There were low points through the years when no records were kept.

Records at the Boy Scout's Office in Danville begin in February, 1932. The Woman's Club, Mrs. Lewis Forein, President, sponsored the group. Scoutmaster was Paul Beauchamp; Committee members were Dr. Hubbard, Ted Henderson, C. M. Schermerhorn, and D. W. Brewer.

Troop No. 20 consisted of Jack Crays, Lewis Forein, Tom Foster, Charles Hornada, Charles Nash Wilbur Shelton, Kenneth Smith, Stanley Wilder, and Harry Wills.

Sponsors through the years include Community Club, Friends Church, First Christian Church and Lions Club.

Scoutmasters and assistants were: A. C. Preston, Don Brewer, James Stevenson, Merlin Smith, J. R. Monroe, H. A. Downs, Harold Neal, T. M. Waters, O. P. Smith, J. R. Weathers, G. W. Brewer, George Martin, N. L. Massey, Oscar Spangler, V. E. Phillips, Don Lawson, Orval Kietzman, Wally Deck, Jean Weiss, R. Tipsword, "Noki"

Conklin, E. M. Smith, Doral Lewis, Mark Blakeney, J. W. Blakeney, Steve Kelley, A. L. Garrison, Madison Baird, L. D. Walker, S. Phillips, and Dale Lierman. Present Scoutmasters are Lierman and Blakeney. Committee members are Joe Goodner, Art Lewis, H. Baird and C. Garrison.

Present members are Mark and Scott Blakeney, Bill Brewer, Jeff Ehlenfeld, M. Garrison, D. Huff, Chris and Terry Lierman, D. Lewis, C. Leeman, E. S. Metz, L. Walker, Jim Woodyard, Larry and Dean Young, and D. Duez.

The Scout meeting room is above the Town Hall. Troop 20 became 220 in February, 1920, in a county-wide change.

Dave Brewer, in 1970, was given the Eagle Award. Records show no other boy in this troop winning this highest award in Scouting. At this time leader Mark Blakeney designed a kerchief for this troop.

The group has been canoeing every fall. They put up flags in town and on servicemen's graves in five cemeteries as Memorial Day observance with the American Legion.



# Entertainment

The Opera House in the Armory was the scene of many local talent productions directed by Musa Swaim Corcoran, who was "quite an actress" and her husband, John, who is referred to as an "institution."

In 1884, the play "Union Scout" featured Robert Fisk and Alfred Hester. "Howdy, Folks" was presented by Mrs. Corcoran in 1921 for the benefit of the Christian Church Ladies Aid. "Human Hearts," the lady of Arkansas Hills, was directed by Mrs. Corcoran to help the Ridge Farm Fire Department in 1932. Mrs. Corcoran's granddaughter, Virginia Lee Chew, was an excellent dancer and singer, and often took part in Musa's productions.

Naomi Lane offered movies for five cents; popcorn was much in demand. This theatre was destroyed in the 1923 fire, as was Boyer's Billiards. The O'Lane Theatre was later rebuilt. John Corcoran, on more than one occasion, owned a



popular pool room. one of these was known as the Smokehouse.

Chautauqua courses were held every summer for a week. At one time, Kathryn York Randolph was the leader of this group. Lecturer courses in winter lasted six to eight weeks. Mrs. Grace Saunders signed the first Chautauqua speaker.

Ladies at this time had ornate calling cards, and put them to use on the days they chose to go calling.

The K of P Band, with Allen Degee and Don Brewer as leaders, gave weekly concerts for years and were invited to play at many events here and

elsewhere. Many social clubs: Mystic Crew GWS. Bon Ton, GRIDS, and WYLK. The latter club was instigated by Verna Peck. Verna claims she is "an organizer to keep friends in touch."

Sports enthusiasts have followed the athletic



teams over the years at the High School. Now, the Grade School has quite a following, and coming into its own are the girls' athletic endeavors.

Barnum and Bailey Circus was in Danville, Illinois, in 1913, and drew quite a crowd of our local citizenry.

For quite a long time the Haverstock Tent Show came to town each summer. Most everyone eagerly awaited the arrival of Toby and Susie and their troupe. Ridge Farm became a second home to the Haverstocks and a lot of us considered them as good friends. Two of the troupe chose Crown Hill Cemetery to be their final resting place.

Vera Pugh recalls making one's own fun—like building leaf houses or the fox and geese games in the newly fallen snow, and young people "sparked" in buggies.

Dane Binkley and others recall Square Dancing for all ages at neighborhood parties. Whenever people moved in the Spring they always had a dance before they laid their rugs.

Our bowling alley, Ridgeway Lanes, opened in 1961, and is operated by Wayne Blakeney, along with a restaurant. Cole Morton gave the land with the stipulation that no liquor would be sold there.

School plays and musicals have offered good

entertainment through the years. Currently, Mr. James Beebe directs the marching band and produces excellent music programs. It is planned for him to direct a Centennial Pageant for Ridge Farm, also for Vermilion Academy's 100th year on September 8, 1974.

Recognized authorities on antiques have been noted here in past years: Mrs. Charles Baum, Mrs. Monroe Ewing, Mrs. Earl Saunders, and Mrs. Nolin Weathers. At present, the people considered the most knowledgeable on antiques in this community are: Mrs. Sherman Smith, Mrs. Mary Conklin Evans, Mrs. Marvin Dooley, Mrs. Carl Busby, and Mr. Dane Binkley. Many antique buffs today

have unusual collections and are avid followers of our auctioneers crying sales.

Vermilion County Audubon Society has several members from this area who attend nature classes at our County Park East of Georgetown, Forest Glen. Our grade school teachers take students there for a week of classes, as well as summer sessions.

A youth center on North State Street is in operation for the young people of the community. It is the result of many long hours of work by the young people, their parents, and other interested people. Parents and adult volunteers chaperone the center during the hours it is open.



At White's Mill



One of Musa Corcoran's  
Home Talent Shows

Left to right: Irma Blakeney, Hopper Burkeser, Leona Brewen, Purl Reese, Maude Hugg, John Corcoran, Howard Fletcher, Lowell Myers, Don Brewer, Irene Reise; Front: Musa Corcoran



Another group of swimmers  
at White's Mill



Slumber Party at Maude Hugg's Home, site  
of present Standard Station



Ridge Farm Presbyterian Sunday School Class—1913

Home of Verna Peck and 1911 Auburn of W. W. Peck



# Outstanding Citizens

Vermilion County's first grand jury met in Danville with John Haworth and Henry Canaday, Vermilion Grove, as members.

Whitlock and Fletcher were also called to serve on early juries.

Eight townships in the county, 1851; Elwood represented by John Canaday.

John W. Parker was Sheriff and County Superintendent of Schools.

Henry C. Elliot, attorney, headed County Board of Supervisors in 1888.

L. W. Coe was chairman of that Board.

R. W. Fisk served for 10 years on the County Board.

James R. Fletcher was State Representative for two terms.

William McKinley Bines was State Representative 1894 to 1896.

Charles Fletcher served as State's Attorney.

Paul Hawkins, inventor of ice cream on a stick and called "Good Humor."

Brigadier General Bonner Fellers.

Harry Yelton founded the Inland Supply Company in Danville. He employed Boyd Yelton, Albert Hadley, Harry Patten, and gave any Ridge Farm boy a job during the depression and later. B. Yelton, Hadley and Patten became officers in the company.

Chester Whitlock, Grand Potentate of Shriners, Springfield.

Linda Metheny, Olympic gymnast, whose father graduated from Ridge Farm High School and often visits here.

Margaret Lee Bines Fisher, Pekin, 1st Vice-President of Illinois Homemakers Extension Federation.

Anna Bines, Ft. Worth, Home Service Director, Texas Electric Services Co., named Texas Home Economist for the year, listed in *Who's Who in American Women*, *World's Who's Who in Commerce and Industry*.

The George Castle family were honored at Illinois State Fair in 1941 as the Singing Farm Family and went on to Iowa Fair representing this State



Linda Metheny, Olympic Gymnast

This Page Compliments of  
Vermilion County Republican Central Committee — E. P. Barrick, Jr., Chairman  
MAX E. COFFEY, Your Republican Candidate for State Representative,  
wishes to congratulate Ridge Farm on it's 100th Anniversary



**BRIG. GEN.  
BONNER  
FELLERS**



Brigadier General Bonner Fellers was known nationally for his military career. One of Vermilion County's most decorated military leaders, he was a graduate of Ridge Farm High School in 1913 and West Point in 1918.

He was assistant to General Douglas MacArthur in the Philippines, then military adviser to the Philippine Government. In 1940 he was sent to Europe as assistant military attaché in Madrid and later to Cairo as Military attaché. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for "personal observation of the battlefields and contribution to the tactical and technical development of our Armed Forces." He filed reports on the desert campaigns in Libya involving Field Marshall Ervin Rommel's Afrika Korps and the British.

He accompanied Gen. MacArthur to Tokyo to accept the Japanese surrender in 1945.

For his psychological warfare against the Japanese he was awarded a second Distinguished Service Award and later two Distinguished Service Stars.

Since his retirement in 1946, he has written and lectured extensively on National Defense and Foreign Aid.

From 1947 to 1952 he was assistant to the chairman of the Republican National Committee.

He died at 77 in Washington, D.C., and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His wife, Dorothy, daughter, Nancy, and four granddaughters survive.

He is remembered by his schoolmates as an outstanding athlete. Mrs. Anna Church, Catlin,

remembers how the girls liked to walk past his house when he was a student at West Point to see if their hero might be home on vacation.

His papers were donated to the Carnegie Library. When he spoke there at the Fiftieth Anniversary, he said he could easily forget the television shows he watched, but he still remembers the books his mother read to him.

His gift to his good friends, Dr. and Mrs. F. Dice, are in the library. There are two Amphorae, 300 B. C., from Cyprus. They were discovered and given to him while he was Military Attaché in the Middle East.

He kept in touch with his friends here on his annual visits and entertained his farm tenants each year.



**JACQUELINE WILLIAMS GOREHAM**

Jacqueline Williams Goreham (Mrs. Donald J.) and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Logan Williams, was chosen Good Will Ambassador for the Savings Bonds Division of the United States Treasury in August 1971. She reigned as the 13th "Mrs. U. S. Savings Bonds" during the ensuing

In memory of Bonner Fellers, his parents, Florence Newlin Fellers  
and Frank Fellers, his brother, Marion Fellers and his cousin, Florence Newlin Carmack,  
by Dorothy Fellers

members the tall Mr. Brady as bugler and her short father, Mr. Cowan, as drummer in parades to the cemetery as they marched together.

During these years, Enoch Brady cared for the cemetery and was custodian of the Armory Building. He was very dedicated to his duties and received very little remuneration. Mr. Brady evidently died about the time that the village took over the care of the cemetery by an ordinance passed in 1918.

The first recorded minutes of the Village Trustees were February 7, 1919, at the Brewer Furniture Store. Frank Brewer was elected Presi-



Road leading to Circle—Crown Hill Cemetery

dent, John W. Foster, Secretary. From that time until August 10, 1940, Lon Biggs was a devoted sexton of the cemetery. His one-horse wagon was a familiar sight going back and forth to his home in the north part of town.

At the November 7, 1927, meeting, Lewis W. Coe was appointed to the cemetery board. At the June 20, 1928, meeting, a motion was passed creating a "Perpetual Care Fund" for maintenance. Don Brewer replaced his father on the board in 1940. The original three members rendered countless hours of service in planting evergreen trees and in buying 10 acres to enlarge the area.



Cannon in Circle—Crown Hill Cemetery

At the March 22, 1946, meeting, J. Cole Morton became a member of the board due to the death of J. W. Foster. L. W. Coe resigned in 1948 and was replaced by Ted Henderson. Henry Steeples was our loyal sexton for 11 years, and Ralph Lanham for the next nine years. James Willison has been the sexton since 1964 and has provided the cemetery with excellent care.

After the untimely death of Gerald Brewer, Manford Darnall was appointed and serves as Secretary, Cole Morton is President, Ted Henderson is Treasurer.

The Perpetual Care Fund has been increased by gifts from the Hodge family, Darnall family, Gertrude Hawkins, Mary Woodyard, Mary Foster Godin, and Harry Yelton. The board is grateful for this as it insures the continued excellent care and maintenance.

# Our Centennial Queen

Our honorary Centennial Queen, Una Fisk Ribble, 82, has had no other mailing address than Ridge Farm. Her father, R. W. Fisk, was attorney for the village. Her son Fisk lives with her; her husband, Wilbur, is deceased.

Her expressive brown eyes light up as she recalls the events she witnessed with her father, who called her "his little lady." He "persuaded" the Clover Leaf Railroad to allow the interurban to lay tracks across their rails at the north edge of town. One Sunday morning, several families pushed the baggage truck from the Big Four Railroad to the crossing and stood guard while the workmen laid the tracks. Mr. Fisk kept order on both sides while the train engineer fumed at the forbidden crossing. As soon as possible, he allowed the train to proceed west. Everyone present climbed on the interurban and rode down town.

She remembers the "big goings on" at Ward Park on July 4th celebrations. Men on horseback with fancy trimmings carried torches in the mile-long parade when tall handsome James R. Fletcher was elected State Representative. He was the grandfather of Lewis and Jim Fletcher.

She recalls when a "big over-grown country boy," Gus Penman, was so envious of Lewis Woodyard's yellow racer that he killed the boy who bought it and buried him. Her father put Gus in the calaboose that stood west of our Post Office. Twice he escaped and finally died in the 1918 "flu" epidemic.

Her father had an office where Stephenson's garage is now; it was burned in one of the many disastrous fires that have occurred in the past. During President Grover Cleveland's term, corn was 25¢, and oats 10¢, and they were the only crops grown then. No one could hire a lawyer, so her father and his brother borrowed money, without interest, of Ted Henderson's grandfather, Joe, and started farming by day. He practiced law at night.

Dr. Jonah Hole and son, Frank, had their dentist office on that street where Steve Kelley now lives; the office was in their home. When Jonah's eyesight had deteriorated to where he had to use a magnifying glass to read, he was still practicing dentistry.

Una lived through a typhoid epidemic when she was a small child; her father had it twice, her

mother had it, as did Lora Chew, who worked for them. It was thought that they contracted the disease from their drinking water, but analysis of the water proved this untrue—however, water stood beneath the sidewalks and in open lots all summer as perfect breeding spots for mosquitoes.

The Bolden family lived just down the street from her, and she tells of hearing much crying in the morning at the Bolden house. One day Una's mother said to Mrs. Bolden, "Ann, what is all of the crying going on over at your house every morning? Don't the children (Josh and Henry) want to go to school?" "Yes," Mrs. Bolden said, "they want to go to school, but I'm whipping them." "But why whip them?" asked Mrs. Fisk. "Cause," Mrs. Bolden said, "I'm afraid they'll do something bad, and I won't know about it."

Una tells of seeing Rueben Short fill and light the kerosene street lamps every evening.

Where the Sundries store now stands was an empty lot, and every summer a man came to town and set up a merry-go-round. One day Mrs. Fisk, Una's mother, Dr. McCloud's wife, Florence Mendenhall, and some other ladies, all of whom were very hefty, got on the merry-go-round—all on one side. The thing broke down and the owner packed up and left town for the last time.

Una was born in the big house that stood on the southeast corner across from the present Christian Church. Her grandfather bought the house from A. J. Darnall, one of the first merchants in Ridge Farm, as mentioned earlier in the book. "Hoosier" Brown lived in the big brick



UNA FISK RIBBLE

house where Champion now lives. Hoosier had the first telephone from Danville company, and R. W. Fisk, Una's father, had the second phone installed. Neither had talked on a phone before Brown rang up central and said, "Turn in Bob Fisk for me." "Hoosier" Brown was the grandfather of William C. (Bill) Brown and Audrey Brown Stevens.

The small office building, known as Clay Cooke's office building, was on the north side of the street then and housed Charley Hathaway's store where he sold organs and sewing machines and insurance. It was moved across the street to its present location, just east of Mrs. Clay Cecil Cooke's residence. Hathaways lived where Joe Goodner lives now.

Enoch Brady, head of GAR, arranged camp meetings every summer for the servicemen who came from all over the state and stayed in homes during the convention. The same three men from Clark County always stayed with the Fisk family. The GAR armory was headquarters for the annual meetings.

Ward Park was a pasture then. She remembers when the trees were planted after Dr. Boswell

Ward gave three acres to the village. She is glad the Lions Club is going to replace the trees.

The Bolden family were her valued friends. John and Ann were slaves who didn't know their ages. He escaped from his master and joined the Union Army as a blacksmith. After the war, he returned to the South to fetch his wife, Ann. Later her master spent two months in their home on West Owen Street. One daughter married Frank Davis a barber here. The ten children left here after their parents' death; two were brought back to Pilot Grove Cemetery for burial.

Furniture was usually placed on top of telephone poles for Halloween pranks. The most daring act she recalls was that three boys led and pushed a cow up three flights of stairs to Doc McCloud's office where the cow managed to break most of his medicine bottles.

Her memory is excellent; she is thankful to have retained her mental capacities, but she quips, "some days I'm an idiot."

Our best wishes to Una Pribble, oldest native of Ridge Farm who has lived here since her birth. As we go to press, March 1, Mrs. Pribble is hospitalized from a fall at her home. We wish her a speedy recovery.



# Our Town



Ridge Farm Lumberyard



Component Roof Truss System factory,  
north of railroad on Rt. 1



Ridge Farm Feed Mill, owned by  
Mercer Brown and son, David

This Page Compliments of  
**JOHN L. JACKSON**

Auctioneer  
Ridge Farm Feed Mill

Marathon Oil Products  
Mercer Brown and David Brown

Component Roof Truss Systems, Inc. — Ridge Farm, Illinois — Robert Stephen, Mgr.



Jean Weiss and son, Mike, operate this Standard Station across from the Grade School



The Texaco Station

Speed Wash Laundromat



John Jackson's delivery truck in front of his home. John is also well known as an auctioneer.



This Page Compliments of  
Mooney Ford Chrisman, Illinois  
Ridge Farm Speed Wash



East Side of South State Street. John Hester's Store on right



East Side of South State Street. Left side of the building was the Inter-urban Station



Building which formerly housed the offices of Dr. Hinshaw and Dr. Dice. Now residence of Robert Bell



Ridgeway Lanes north of town

This Page Compliments of  
Associated Crafts

Auto — Marine

Fiberglass — Aluminum — Steel

Repair — Refinishing

Ray Shelton

Ridge Farm, Ill. 61870





Hathaway's  
Store  
and  
Insurance  
Office.  
Later  
Clay  
Cooke's  
Office



A. L. Newlin Plumbing and Heating—  
in business longer than any other Ridge  
Farm business man. Picture about  
1945



THE HUT, 1974, operated by Dane and Eula Binkley. (Inset—the original Hut, 1930, started by Charlie  
and Ruth Ankrum)





East Side of State Street looking north. Right to left: Latoz Hardware, Gene Davenport's Town and Country Inn, Herb Baird's Barber Shop



Looking South on State Street: Youth Center and Masonic Building on right; School Superintendent's Office, Raymond Ingram, Trucking Office, Hawkin's Market, Ridgefarm Sundries (on corner)



East Side of South State Street. Left to right: Honnold's Display, Steve Kelley Insurance, Williams Beauty Shop



Ike's StarLite Inn, Ike's Car Wash. On right is Dr. George's Office; Stephenson's Garage is on the left.



East of Ward Park on East Pilot Street



Looking north on

Virginia Drive, Ridgeland Court

Ridgeland Builders was started by Vance and Evelyn Pearson in December, 1971. Their first home was completed on South Third Street in Ridge Farm by February, 1972. Eight new homes were contracted to be built in the new sub-division just off Cemetery Road, known as Ridgeland Court. One other new house was built on North Third Street.

Seven more houses went up in Ridgeland Court in 1973, leaving only one empty lot in the sub-division. Two more houses were built in the town proper this year, one on Pilot Street, and another on West Elwood. What was a short time ago, just a pasture is now a new and busy sub-division. Here are some of the new owners: Jim and Pat Brown, Gary and Vickie Brown, Jim and Becky Sheppard, Danny and Joyce Spicer, Eunice and Hubert Williford, Larry and Peggy Stahl, Van and Sheryl Lawver, Steve and Judi Larsen, Orville and Geneva Elkins, Katherine Boyer, Delbert and Nyrita Lowe, Mike and Ramona Sandy, Charles and Roberta Miles, Don and Sharon Weir, Robert and Mary Ann Gordon, and Roy and Alice Galyen.



New houses on East North

This Page Compliments of  
RIDGELAND BUILDERS

"Your Home Builder"

Vance and Evelyn Pearson

# Memories

## DO YOU REMEMBER . .

- 1 . . the C M A (Coming Men of America)?
- 2 . . Fred Harrell and his ponies?
- 3 . . "Ecker" Hall's gasoline station down by the High School?
- 4 . . the May Day celebrations in the Grade School yard with fancy and colorful costumes and the Maypole dance?
- 5 . . Perry Lake at the grocery store?
- 6 . . Earl "Buck" Tuggle working at the printing office?
- 7 . . "Jap" Ward doing a jig dance at the weekly band concert on the square?
- 8 . . "Curly" Coe's pasture?
- 9 . . Naomi Lane's player piano?
- 10 . . . Rose Kern's lovely Lemon fluff pies?
- 11 . . . when the "in" place to go was White's Mill?
- 12 . . . when you spent 15 minutes choosing a penny's worth of candy at Quinn's Candy Store?
- 13 . . . when you used to ring in and ask Ann Ankrum, Irene Matthews, Opal King or Hazel Hodges for the doctor that you needed in a hurry?
- 14 . . . when Dr. A. A. Clark said, "I know we have to have rain, but I wish it would rain at night and not get the women's chickens wet"?



T. C. Perry Store. The first door on the right was Ewing's Store where the Ridge Farm Library had its beginnings; next to it was Hornada's Drug Store.





Standing: Dorothy Banta Hadley, Rhoda Jones Fox  
Seated: Esther Cowan

- 15... when the K of P Band concerts were the social event of the week; Don Brewer and Allen Degee were leaders and those "nifty" uniforms?!
- 16... Pete Cramer on his bicycle with ladder and paint buckets?
- 17... when they either pushed or pulled the first fire tank wagon, and helpers were paid 25¢?
- 18... when Perry Wills had his very own seat in the O'Lane Theatre?
- 19... "Curt" Jones delivering milk early in the morning?
- 20... Fred Barrick's and Worley Cornett's taxi service?
- 21... when the railroad section men had to sweep snow out of the switches all night long?

- 22... how the old steam engines huffed and puffed pulling a coal drag up the hill from south of town?
- 23... the ball games that were played on Sunday in the pasture of the big brick house south of town?
- 24... Roy Rigdon, "Marky" Sisson, Bill Hummel, Jack McCool, Wade Harris and many other of our fine ball players?
- 25... Charlie Ankrum serving a dish of baked beans with soda crackers or a "Jack Frost" for a nickel?



Matticks & Gass Hardware Store. The man on the right with his foot on the bench is thought to be Monroe Ewing.

- 26... when you ate your first Eskimo pie?
- 27... "Brick" Boone tapping out the telegraph message in Morse Code?
- 28... when they had free movies behind "The Hut"?
- 29... "Pop" Spangler, Doyne King and "Goldie Ellis" driving their gasoline trucks?



Could it be the former style of Curb Service?

This Page Compliments of  
TOWN AND COUNTRY TAP  
"Bud" on Tap — Pizza — Sandwiches  
Gene Davenport, Proprietor

- 30... how Merlin Smith and "Jerry" Brewer could make the rural mail route in all kinds of weather?
- 31... Elwood Mote and his Essex automobile?
- 32... the old Atwater Kent radios sold by Rafferty's?
- 33... the tub of ice water at Walter Madsen's Creamery on concert night with a single tin cup for everyone to use?
- 34... the square on concert nights? How the people lined the steps of the old hotel building and parked their cars all around?
- 35... for applause on concert nights, how they honked the car horns?
- 36... young Charles Harrold passing through the crowds carrying a filled tray and saying, "Popcorn, Peanuts and Chewing Gum"?
- 37... the Fox-Trot? The Charleston? The Black-bottom?



Left to right: Mrs. Blakeney (Irma Banta's mother)  
Mrs. Curry, Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Townsend

- 38... Jonah Prater's penny candy store?
- 39... Frank Brewer leading the hymn singing at Church?
- 40... when everyone had a garden during the depression and called on the neighbors to help can corn when it was at its peak?



Interior of Joe Soule's Store. Joe Soule, Charles McCloud, Miss Evelyn Montgomery, Mrs. Sarah Soule (left to right)

In memory of Cal, Cam, and Ernest Hackler  
By Don, Betty, Ona Mae and Marie



Front Steps of Pilot Grove Church which later burned  
Left to right: Maggie Tuttle, Jim Tuttle, Cash Tuttle,  
Sarah York and Tillford York

- 41 ... "Virg" teaching Meng Snyder, Donald Young, Frank Cooke and "Mickey" McBride telegraphy, so that they would have a "trade"?
- 42 ... the straight rows of corn that John Shelton always planted?
- 43 ... when you wore knickers?

- 44 ... when Jackie Bolden sang with the band on concert nights?
- 45 ... when the neighbors' chickens scratched up your garden?
- 47 ... Jobie McCool, Lucky Baldwin, Elijah McCool, Cal Hackler, and Henry Steeples laying most of Ridge Farm's drainage tile?
- 48 ... Henry Steeples and Milo Newlin plowing open the sidewalks after a big snow with a homemade plow that was horse drawn?
- 49 ... the school picnics on the playground on the last day of school?
- 50 ... making home made ice cream on a warm Sunday afternoon with "really fresh" milk?
- 51 ... swimming and washing your car at Lambert's ford?
- 52 ... the Victory gardens during World War II?



An early Ridge Farm Business Place—Frank Brewer Furniture Store in 1912



- 53... McKinley Henderson's race car?
- 54... the neighbors joining together to scoop open the snow clogged road from Locust Corner to Ridge Farm?
- 55... Jones' strawberry patch?
- 56... washday? — the towels spread on the grass to bleach?
- 57... the "receipts" the ladies exchanged?
- 58... when Dona and Lindsey Harrington celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary? They are Ridge Farm's oldest married couple and on March 7, 1974, they celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.



Left to right: H. G. Barker, Peter Kramer, F. P. Smith, I W. Black and Ad York. Taken in front of Charles McCloud Grocery.

### WILL YOU REMEMBER

- 1... that you had a good time?
- 2... that you saw a lot of old friends and acquaintances?
- 3... that a lot of old "Memories" were called to mind?
- 4... that all of the above happened at the celebration of Ridge Farm's 100th Birthday?

We sincerely hope that you will remember, and we are very pleased that you were able to come back "home" at this time.

*The Centennial Committee*



Horse-drawn wagon stops at gas station!



Left to right: Vinnie Banta Lyon, Amy Banta Hise, Nettie Antrim (Banta) Bettie Banta Bennett, Annie Banta Gorham

This Page Compliments of  
Loyal Nimrick Rord Sales — Georgetown, Ill. 662-8545  
Reifsteck Distributing Co. — Hudepohl Brewing Company

Doc says, "Why not get moody with Hude." Remember the name—you'll never forget the taste.



## NEWSPAPERS

In October of 1895 George W. Gardner was Publisher of the Ridge Farm Republican. Subscription was \$1.50 a year. Some excerpts from this paper that is owned by Mr. & Mrs. James Loop, are as follows:

Advertisement: **C. F. Haworth** — Successor to Haworth & Fletcher Undertakers and Dealers in fine furniture.

Just arrived! New line of double and single book-cases, folding beds, parlor suits, chamber sets, etc. Get our prices!

\*\*\*\*\*

Advertisement: **Dr. J. Hole**, The Dentist, is at Sidell 1st Monday, Chrisman 2nd Monday, Indianola 3rd Monday of each month and remains 2 days at each place.

The balance of the time he can be found at his office is Ridge Farm, Ill.

\*\*\*\*\*

Advertisement: **Dr. E. A. Newcomb** will visit every 60 days at A. P. Saunders store to fit spectacles.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Advertisement: **NEW BAKERY**. . . . . Having opened to the public a bakery and restaurant in under the Republican office, we desire all of our friends and the public generally to come and see me. My stock of confectionery and restaurant goods, is the best that money can buy, including cigars, tobaccos, etc. REMEMBER, I do my own baking and know everything is clean and only the best material used. Try "Purity Bread". . .  
**Jno. C. Bennett**

Advertisement: **Matticks Hardware Store**  
Favorite Hard Coal Base Burner

Advertisement: Spot Cash Talks. . . . . A \$ Buys More than can be bought anywhere on the Credit System at Jno. W. Foster's Store located under Masonic Temple.

### PROFESSIONAL CARDS

**Dr. D. C. Hinshaw**. . . . . Physician & Surgeon  
Over Morgan's Grocery

**Dr. W. M. H. McCloud**

Physician, Surgeon & Specialist

I have an elegant office in Union Block and cordially invite the citizens of Ridge Farm and vicinity to call and see me. Chronic diseases, liquor, opium & tobacco habits successfully treated. Calls promptly answered day or night.

**Dr. P. H. Swaim**. . . . . Physician & Surgeon

**John Osler**, Prop. City Tonsorial Parlor . . . Shaving, shampooing and hair cutting done in every style known to the art. All work guaranteed. Bath rooms in connection. Hot and cold soft water. Bath at all hours. First door South of Kendall's restaurant.

**Fred Contans**. . . . . Carriage & Wagon Shop

Cumberland Presbyterian. . . . . **J. B. Rose**, Pastor  
M. E. Church. . . . . **W. M. Gooding**, Pastor  
Friends Church. . . . . **S. P. Tolbert**, Pastor  
P. J. Hester, Supt.

Chas. A. Clark Camp. . . . . #77 Div. of Ill.  
Sons of Veterans

**J. F. Ratliff**, Capt. **J. W. Shanks**, 1st Sergt.  
#157 O.E.S.

Worthy Matron. . . . . **Mrs. Jennie M. Bedinger**  
Secretary. . . . . **Mrs. Maggie Baum**  
K of P. . . . . **H. C. Darnall**. . . . . **Harry Osler**  
MW of A. . . . . **L. W. Hole**. . . . . **A. I. Fletcher**  
AF & AM. **Jonah Hole**, **W.M.** **C. F. Haworth**, Sec.  
100F #678. . . . . **J. F. Ratliff**. . . . . **C. F. Cook**, Sec.  
G.A.R. . . . . **C. A. Clark** Post #184  
**A. J. Stevenson**, Commander. **Jas. Bedinger**, Adj.

QUOTES FROM THE  
RIDGE FARM REPUBLICAN

Lost between Barr's garage and Vanneman Farm 3 miles West of town, crank of Hupmobile. Finder please return to Barr's Garage. Russell Guin. 1921

I will start a milk wagon Dec. 19, 1921. Those that want to be sure of milk this winter at 9¢ a qt., call J. C. Jones. 1921

Our line of imported handkerchiefs finest ever seen in Ridge Farm. Beautiful satin bloomers in holly boxes for Christmas. Harrold and Reese. 1921

Clyde Bilkey, Barber under Brewer Furniture Store. 1921

Smith & Smith, Ice, Coal, Motor Freight Lines to Danville Shoppers! Let us haul your Christmas packages. We handle them with care. Phones 8 & 66-2.

Golden Throat Claxtonola Phonograph as good as the best, Better than the rest. They will make your home happy. Tuttle & Son 1921

\$40.00 was made from a box social at Harrison School. 1921

Atty. Charles H. Fletcher, Mattoon, former resident of Ridge Farm has been appointed on a reception committee for Marshall Foch in Chicago. Nov., 1921

Rev. Batchelor will deliver address at the Union Service. Nov. 1921

Music will be furnished each night by the K of P Band during Armistice celebration. Nov., 1921

Prepare for winter with horse blankets and lap robes from Milton Mills Store. Nov., 1921

Get your oysters for Thanksgiving from Charlie Ankrum's Restaurant. 40¢ a pint; 75¢ a quart. Phone 28 Nov. 16, 1921

Settle accounts with us now or they will be placed in hands of collector. Richardson & Norris. Republican 1905

Virginia Lee Chew danced and sang, Margaret Harrold at the piano, won second place in radio contest at WDZ and will appear RKO theatre, Champaign. Dec. 1932

Ice cream social will be given at Bethel Church with free entertainment. 1921

We will pay you 30¢ a dozen for your eggs. Campbell coffee four pound bucket \$1.40. B. F. Moore Grocery 1921

Last open air concert of KP Band for season. Sept. 14, 1921

Ridge Farm Home Bureau Unit will meet with Humrick and McKendree for an all day meeting at the Christian Church Oct. 6 with Miss Haugh, clothing specialist. Each member bring lunch. 1921

Mr. Gordon Woodyard, residing South of the city, brought to this office a sample of Georgia Velvet Beans which he raised on his farm this year. He secured the seed in Georgia last winter and they were the first we have seen raised in this part of the country. Sept. 14, 1921

Hail stones were so large in our worst storm in years, that residents gathered them up to make ice cream. May 1914

Grain market: New Wheat 90¢ Corn 38¢ Oats 24¢ 1924 Butterfat 28¢ Ridge Farm Creamery. 1924

Through the efforts of Keith Foster and Coach Russell Guin, 24 business men here closed their shops to attend the game at Newman. Score was 26-0 in favor of Coach Guin's "sad rooters".

O. H. Worley, Former Supt. of Ridge Farm Schools, whonow holds responsible position with Indianapolis Engraving and Electric-Typing Co., was here last week shaking hands with old friends. 1921

S. L. Ellis has a new Wallis Tractor.

J. W. Bell, supervisor, Nolin Weathers, Notary public, listed town fund expenditures \$5,728.00 Road and Bridge \$7,492.00 1949

Lions Club is placing reflector tapes on bikes. 1949

An organ was given to the Federated Church in memory of Carl Schermerhorn by his sister Irene. 1948

The Boy Scouts were reorganized and are to be sponsored by the American Legion. 1949

Joe Henderson awarded scholarship to U. of I. as child of World War I veteran.

Mrs. W. W. Peck, Miss Verna Peck, Mrs. Leona Brewer and children spent July 4 at Turkey Run. 1930

Just received 5 car loads of Moline Plows, Turnbull wagons, Harper buggies, Union City buggy. M. A. Harrold and Son. 1904

E. E. Moore bought Dr. Swaim's 20 room hotel, renamed it Ridgemore. It is the leading hotel for miles. 1905

We are closing out a large stack of Haviland China at cost to make room for other goods. R. S. Jagers & Son 1909

John Spear, Agent for Illinois Traction System, has been presented a new uniform cap. 1909

Livery Stable, Feed and Boarding. A. A. Clark Calls answered promptly day or night. 1909

I'm a good-natured cuss and have farms to sell worth the money. Charles Brady 1909

Russell Banta Buicks to sell. For quick trips. We have not equal. 1909

Love Township Arthur Jones, Treas. and W. H. Johnson, Justice of the Peace show receipts for Hard Roads \$6,748 and Expenses \$4,506. 1923

Mrs. F. P. Smith entertained WYLK with a backwards party.

Semi-annual Dollar Day at Snider's Feb. 2, 1930.

Marshall Charles Lester had been notified to be on look-out for two men on East bound freight on the Nickel Plate Road. The freight stopped here, and he lodged them in the village jail.

Frazier Hunt, speaker at the Grade School Commencement, chose as his topic "Advantage of the American School". 1930

Stock of John Deere Planters, discs and repairs—E. C. Smith—Elevator of Vermilion Grove. 1923

At Union Church services Frank Brewer was song leader. R. H. Barstead, Ross Fleming, and George Moore also participated. 1930

A severe sleet storm, and 24 hour rain paralyzed lights, power, and telephone system. Jan. 15, 1930.

When you buy protection, why not buy the best? O. A. Sanks Insurance, West Main Street. Phones: Residence 23 Office 20 1913

Auto Livery by the hour, mile, or trip at the right price. Phone 201 day or night. R. C. Banta 1913

Purkhiser — Contractor and Builder — 1903

Farmer's Elevator always has a good supply of coal. Frank Jones, Mgr. 1913

Jenny Wren Miniature golf course built at Olivet by Willison and Campbell. 1930

Lt. Irene W. Schermerhorn, USN returned to U. S. Naval Hospital, Quantico, Va. after being called home by the death of her grandmother, Mrs. Belle Schermerhorn, 90. 1934

1600 people visited the log cabin on display at Schermerhorn Lumber Co. 454 year old Douglas Fir was cut in 1926 and logs sawed from it to make 2 room cabin. 1929

W. F. Banta, dealer in all kinds of grain, Telephone #6 for Chicago markets. Free to all. 1903

Mrs. Cyrus Hester entertained at 12 o'clock dinner Mr. and Mrs. Ted Henderson and baby, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hester. 1949

U. C. Fletcher Post entertained Vermilion County American Legion at a picnic at the XX cabins, Olivet, 300 ex-service men registered at the big tent. Attorney Charles Fletcher, Mattoon, Ridge Farm native, was the speaker. 1934

Brewer Furniture Store purchased A. P. Saunders store, North State and West Owne. Saunders moved into Schriener Building West side of South State. 1929

Miss Ruby Dean Heady, Miss Naida Rae Bush resigned as teachers at the high school. They will both receive the title of Mrs. 1949

Cash Store. Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, W. R. Julian Phone 54 1903

Four generations were present at the christening of Louis Coe Lowenstein and James Riley Lowenstein, small sons of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lowenstein. Grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lowenstein and Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Adams, White Hall, Ill 1934

Music department organized by Kathyryn Brinkerhoff in 1930, won silver loving cup for First place in County Contest their first year.

70 friends and relatives met at the home of Aurilena Ellis for her birthday. 1930

A tree planting at the Grade School honored Nelle Barrick for 25 years teaching primary and Clyde Williams for 19 years of elementary teaching.

White Oak Fence Posts, Hardwood Lumber, Bridge Lumber. Grant Martin Vermilion Grove Phone 162-2 1923

Mrs. J. W. Collier leads committee planning Better Homes Campaign here. 1930



The Knot Hole—Published in the Ridge Farm Republican in the interests of the people by Schermerhorn and Son Lumber Co. Since we started here 20 years ago Feb., 1908, the homes, schools, churches, streets have improved wonderfully and are a credit to any city her size. Feb. 22, 1928

The Ag boys received First place for most points in Judging Contest at Armstrong with W. S. Batson as teacher. Ag boys will test your seed corn—1¢ per ear.

Charles Ankrum's new restaurant, the HUT, on South State offers regular dinners 35¢, Plate lunch 25¢. 1930

Let us show you and supply your needs early. Anything in the jewelry line for Commencement. Monroe Ewing 1919

J. W. Myers and Son, Mitchell Six, F. O. B. \$1475.00  
Briscoe Four F. O. B. \$885.00  
New Cars 1919

Seven rings means to listen into an important announcement from the telephone operator. 1930

50 members DHIA visited Cole Morton's herd, one of the best barns in the County, it accommodates 27 cows. He started farming in 1924.

Bargain Days Plate Lunch 25¢ at the HUT. 1932

Banta's Garage Hudson and Essex Phone 51 1928

Mrs. J. E. Castle and Audrey entertained Mr. and Mrs. Frazier Hunt, John Kern, daughter Ethel, and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Castle.

\$3.50 round trip ticket to St. Louis via Nickel Plate. Good attractions at theatres. 1930

Fred Metheny has installed a 9 tube all electric Philco radio, from Rafferty's in his Cafe. 1930

Since Mrs. Frank Harrold has taken over management of our Ridge Farm Store, we will move good merchandise to make room for spring goods: One lot men's Hart Schaffner and Marx Suits \$12.48 Ladies Rayon Striped Union Suits, Knee Length, Dutch Neck 69¢ Men's Ribbed Union Suits \$1.00

We shall take fresh eggs at the market price in payment for merchandise. SNIDER'S 1928

Local fire department called to the old creamery building North part of town, now Brock Jones elevator. Building, Auto, Implements, furniture and 250 bushels of rye were destroyed. 1930

Carsman's Groceries A SPECIAL 2 lb. of Oleo 19¢

Special Sat. and Sun. Tutti Frutti Ice Cream Qt. Brick . . . 49¢ Hornada Drug Store 1930

## IN MEMORIAM

Baker, George W.	Fletcher, Hon. James P.	Mendenhall, Paris H.
Banta, Robert and Ida Terry	Fletcher, John William	Mendendall, Sarah A.
Banta, W. F. and Buena	Fletcher, Robert Ankrum	Mills, Dale
Baum, Charles	Fletcher, Ulysses Carl	Mills, Pearl
Baum, Kate	Flett, Rev. George C.	Mills, Ralph
Bond, Ralph Craveb	Flett, Mrs. George C. (Carrie)	Patten, Cora
Brown, Commodore	Forein, Sgt. Donald W.	Patten, I. E.
Busby, Charles	Foreman, Amos D.	Phenicie, Merle and Blanche
Busby, Charles Milton	Foreman, Amos D., Jr.	Quick, Mr. & Mrs. A. J.
Busby, Charles Wilber	Gardner, Oscarine Schrishuhn	Rigdon, Orie
Busby, Rosa Ella Jones	Gardner, Paul	Rigdon, Walter & Mary Elizabeth
Canaday, Ellis	Garrison, Asa	Sanders, Jane & Elton
Canaday, Frederick Alfred	Garrison, Susanna	Saunders, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Pulaski
Canaday, Hattie Mendenhall	Goodner, Alfred F.	Saunders, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Earle
Canaday, Mary L.	Goodner, Cynthia Ann	Schermerhorn, Mr. & Mrs. A. V.
Carico, Robert	Goodner, Virgil A.	Schermerhorn, Capt. Carl V.
Carico, Rhoda Hackler	Grant, Ruth Schermerhorn	Schermerhorn, E. M.
Chew, Mr. & Mrs. Mose	Hamilton, Robert F.	Schermerhorn, Ruby
Clark, Dr. A. A.	Harrier, Inez Tuggle	Schrishuhn, Edith
Coe, Louis Woodyard	Harrington, Donald Lamar	Schrishuhn, Fred
Coe, Mrs. Louis (Anna Canaday)	Harrold, Frank	Shelton, Wilbur
Coe, Miss Viola Margaret	Harrold, Grace Reese	Smith, Fred Plowman
Coleman, Dale J.	Henderson, William	Spangler, C. O. (Pop) & Mabel
Cooke, Clay	Henderson, Mrs. William (Sarah)	Steeple, Theodore
Craven, Angelina	Hinshaw, Dr. Dougan C.	Steeple, Mrs. Theodore (Esther)
Dailey, Martha J.	Hunt, Mrs. Frazier (Emma Kern)	Truett, J. B.
Dailey, Stephen "Buddy"	Jenkins, Herman & Joy (Larrance)	Truett, Nina
Dailey, Walter D.	Johnson, Charlie	Tuggle, Earl
Darnall, Manford (Pete)	Jones, Mr. & Mrs. H. E.	Tuggle, George
Darnall, Amy B.	Jones, Ira Grover	Tuggle, Mrs. George (Flora)
Davis, Lydia Hornaday	Jones, Rhoda Weller	Turner, Frank C.
Davis, Rufus Hunt	Kelley, Dwight B.	Turner, Mary E.
Dice, George Arthur	Kern, John Alvin	Utterback, S/Sgt. Eugene
Dice, Dr. Henry F.	Kern, Lillie Haworth	Weathers, Annalee Fletcher
Dice, Mrs. Henry F. (Bertha)	Kinney, Mr. & Mrs. Ross	Weathers, James Russell
Downs, William H., Sr.	Larrance, Harley	Webb, Warren
Downs, William H., Jr.	Lester, Charles W., Sr.	Webb, Mrs. Warren (Ella)
Duncan, Thomas D.	Lester, Ella	Weir, Ernest L.
Fletcher, Ada Pugh	Lewis, Everett E.	Weir, Wanda Elaine
	Lewis, Lucinda	York, Mary Harper

## PATRONS

Arnett, Della Mae  
Baldwin, Allie Fletcher  
Bennett, Georgeann Carico  
Besore, Nellie M.  
Bill and Esther  
Busby, Georgia M.  
Coartney, Georgia  
Craddock, Villa Lee Carico  
Dunn's Standard  
Ellis, Louis "Toddy"  
Emory, Mrs. Edwin (Edna)  
Emory, Edwin  
Fletcher, Andrea  
Fletcher, Freda Carico  
Fletcher, James  
Henderson, Mr. & Mrs. Floyd  
Hubbard, Mary Osborne  
Humrichous, Phillip M.  
Ingram, Raymond  
Ingram, Mrs. Raymond (Berniece)  
Jackson, Madge  
Northside Barber Shop

Jones, Donald  
Jones, Helen Whitlock  
Kelley, Bruce  
Kelley, Steven D.  
Kelley, Syble S.  
Larrance, Dale  
Larrance, Mrs. Dale (Betty Smith)  
Larrance, Mrs. Harley (Grace Jones)  
Lewis, Arthur L.  
Lewis, Issac E.  
Luster's License Service  
Massing, Kathryn Busby  
Myers, Mr. & Mrs. Harold  
(Bette Larrance)  
Newline, Bennett  
Orrick, Ralph  
Orrick, Mrs. Ralph  
(Margaret Ann Jones)  
Pearson, Dean E.  
Pearson, W. Irene  
Plog, Roy  
Plog, Mrs. Roy (Dora)

Pugh, Betty Jane  
Pugh, Robert R.  
Reader, Mr. & Mrs. James  
Schermerhorn, Mrs. E. M.  
Schermerhorn, Irene W.  
Sellers, Joan & M. G.  
Shields, Alva  
Sisson, Doyle  
Sisson, Marcus  
Smith, Joe  
Spesard, Mr. & Mrs. Howard G.  
Vice, Robert W.  
Bill's Mower Shop  
Yates Barber Shop  
George W. Samford & Son  
Chrisman Western Auto  
McClintock Bowman Agency  
Adam's Men's Store  
Scotland Soil Service  
Wilson Variety Store  
Ben's Used Furniture  
Harmon's Meat Shoppe

The Centennial Committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank the many patrons and sponsors who by their contributions helped make this book possible. We regret that we weren't able to thank each of you personally and we hope that this book by its contents will convey our sincere thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,

Centennial Executive Committee







UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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